

FOXHOUNDS

THEIR MANAGEMENT & HUNTING IN AMERICA

by

An American M.F.H.

A Manuscript by A.HENRY HIGGINSON

March 1911

Presented to the NSL by J.H.DANIELS

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May 1982

To my small son

Henry Lee Higginson 2nd,

In the hope that he will some day carry
my horn behind the hounds I have bred,
this book is affectionately dedicated

By his father.

. . .



P r e f a c e .

I am aware that many of the practices recommended and theories advanced in this book will savor the anglomania to some hunting men in this country. My experience has been mainly with English hounds, my teacher an Englishman, the literature I have read on the subject English, (we have none): but I have tried to adapt all these methods to American conditions: in the hope that they might be of some use to a beginner who -- not as lucky as I was -- had no one to tell him what to do. My first lessons in hunting hounds were given me by Ned Cotesworth, my late kennel hūnstman, and I like to take this chance to thank him for the modest and unassuming way in which he imparted his knowledge of hounds and hunting to me: and also for his careful criticism and useful suggestions with regard to this book.

We all of us have our hobbies. Mine is foxhunting. I think of it, dream of it, talk of it all the time, and so in the long winter evenings when the country is frozen up, and I can only sit at home and hear my hounds singing in their kennels, it has seemed natural to write of it. If it proves a help to any one, I shall be glad. At any rate, it has been a pleasure to write it, in the hope that it may one day be useful to the boy to whom it is dedicated.

A. H. H.

Chapter 1.

Introductory.

My object in writing this book is two-fold. In the first place I want to give all good sportsmen in America, whether they are horsemen or not, an idea of how delightful the sport of foxhunting may be made; and in the second place I want to be of some aid to the embryo M. F. H., if I can, by importing to him such knowledge as I have acquired in a good many years close intimacy with hounds and hunting. I know that when I began to keep hounds, I would have given much to have had at my command just such a book as I shall aim to make this; and if the acquirement of such knowledge of hounds and hunting, as it contains, induces one novice at the game to keep hounds or hunt them himself, I shall be satisfied. I do not for one instant wish those men who have all their lives hunted foxes in the old-fashioned American way, to think that I am scoffing at their methods or at the hunting which they have done, and which their sons and grandsons will continue to do. They are sterling sportsmen and I hope that all men who hunt foxes on horseback behind a pack of hounds will recognize that fact. I am describing the kind of sport I am familiar with and I feel that they will understand it as we understand their kind of sport.

I question if there are many men who have once become interested in foxhunting who have ever let it drop; there is something fascinating about the whole game which it is hard to describe to the uninitiated. To spend a morning or perhaps a day in the saddle at the most beautiful time of year, when all the foliage is variagated as the colors of the rainbow; to see the hounds work in covert and to feel a good horse under one impatient to be off, when the long waited for view-holloa comes from the whipper in at the covert side; to see the scarlet coated huntsman come out of covert urging on his hounds with voice and horn, to see the pack settle down and go away with a burst of

music is enough to make any man's blood go a bit faster through his veins, and to make him feel that for that day at least life is worth living. And then the run that follows, and it matters but little to a good sportsman about the finish, he has his reward in seeing the hounds work, in getting perhaps a good gallop and in breathing the pure, fresh morning air, he lives in fact; and if he is a business man and must go to his office later in the day, or on other days that week, I'm sure he will do his work all the better for having had a few hours in the open.

This is all of it old to the "regulars" and yet never does it get monotonous, no two days are alike and there is always something new for all true lovers of nature. To the novice each day brings a new experience and a new lesson, which if he has ever hopes of keeping hounds or hunting them himself he'll commit to memory.

And to the embryo M. F. H. I would say one thing; learn the game from the bottom up. You may be quite sure there is a good reason for every move a good huntsman makes, for every word he says and for every note of his horn. Even if you don't hunt your hounds yourself and never intend to, you may find yourself some fine day in a predicament when you'd give a good deal to be able to do so; your huntsman may be ill, he may get a bad fall, -- a dozen things may happen. For the same reason, familiarize yourself in the duties of your other men. If you don't know how they should be done when things are right, how can you know when they are wrong?

My first hounds were a small pack of beagles and I can well remember the pains I took with them. I had a boy to help me but I saw to the preparation of every bit of food that they had, - always feeding them myself, - and to their care and welfare in many ways. I've never regretted the hours of hard work, I put into those little beagles, nor the first insight it gave me into kennel management. There is always something to be learned, and at the present time there is scarcely a week in the year that I do not spend many hours with my kennel huntsman, discussing one point or another in hound lore. Make yourself familiar with every detail there, no matter how trivial it may appear,

and I am sure you will be glad of it in the end.

But I am devoting a lot of time to the master who will have his little chapter in due course. To the initiated, to my fellow M.F.H's, I wish to say this; much of this book is of course an old, old story to them and I hope that they will forgive me if I tread on any of their pet theories and remember that in writing a book on Foxhunting and foxhounds in America I am trying rather to aid the novice, than to lay down the law to men who are far better fitted to teach me than I am to teach them; nevertheless I am conceited enough to hope that there may perhaps be some practices spoken of, and theories advanced which may be used by American Masters, which I have learned from some of our English cousins with whom I have come in contact. Should this prove to be true I can only say that I have found myself that where hounds and kennel-management were concerned we Americans are mere children beside the Englishmen, who have reduced such things nearly to a state of perfection.

Chapter II.

Kennels.

Somerville begins his lines on the kennels in which to keep hounds with the words:- "let first the Kennel be the huntsman's care;" and there is much truth in this statement. Too many men think that "any place will do for a dog," and although I am happy to say that this does not apply to the average owner of a pack of hounds, yet there are instances within my knowledge where far too little consideration is given to the housing of the pack. Let me beg of you who are just starting, to take as much pains in choosing the site for your kennels and in the construction of them, as you do in your choice of hounds to occupy them. If kennels are not healthy be sure you'll never succeed in producing good hounds, or in keeping old ones in a state of health.

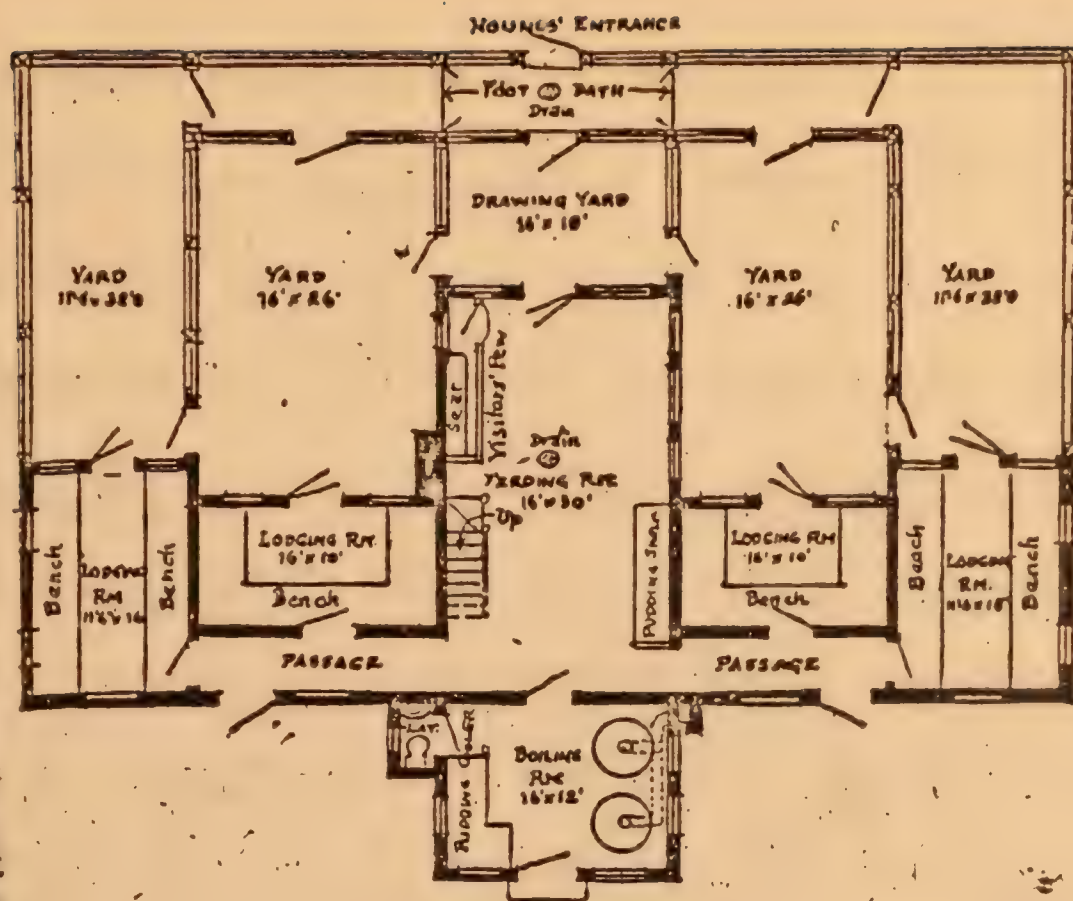
Be very particular in choosing your site; for if you erect your building in any but a dry place, be sure that kennel lameness will surely make its appearance, and you may have to rebuild them entirely. The best situation is on a little rise of ground, the southern slope of some field, and if this can be found on a spot which is protected by trees from the north and east winds, so much the better. A clay soil is always the best for hounds, but as this cannot always be procured, it is perhaps best that I should describe to you my own kennels, which though built in a country where sandy soil is the only one to be found have always been very healthy.

If you will glance at the block plan you will see the situation of the various buildings and the relation they bear to each other. Let us first consider them as a whole, and then go into a detailed description of each one. The main kennels are situated on the southerly slope of the open ground and are built on a special foundation which will be described later, which renders them absolutely free from dampness. Below

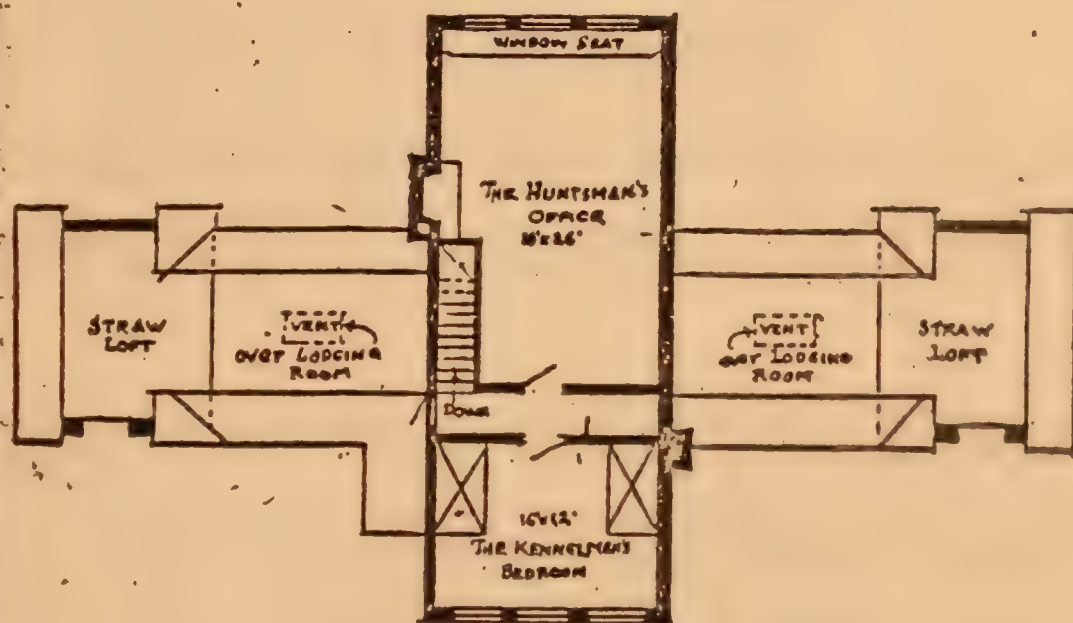
on the southern side are the grass courts and also the large airing yard which extends to the left for some distance. To the right is the huntsman's house, while on the other side of it is the hospital ward in which sick hounds, which may have infectious disease, are isolated from the pack. It too has several grass courts opening off from it, where the convalescents can get a bit of fresh air when they are recovering. Back of the kennels runs a road leading in one direction to the main entrance, and in the other to the master's house a quarter of a mile away. Across this road are situated the flesh house, the whelping pens, the meal house and valeting room, also a number of grass courts which are of great use for brood bitches and young puppies.

All yards and grass courts used on the place are enclosed in extra heavy two and one-half inch mesh poultry wire, buried 18 inches in the ground to keep hounds from digging under, and varying in height from three to eight feet according to the use they are intended for. It takes an eight foot fence to keep in grown hounds, and even then I have known them to get out.

And now as to the buildings themselves. Earlier in this chapter I have touched on the importance of keeping kennels free from dampness, and now in detailing to you the construction of my own, I wish to emphasize this fact again. Good drainage is of the utmost importance, and to this end I put an eight inch tile into the foundation of the kennels, as a main outlet to the waste water, two traps, one in the feeding room and one in the foot-bath, connecting to this. My main kennels are built on this small area of made land, 77 ft by 47 ft. 9 in. in extent, and on it are not only the kennels themselves but the airing courts--in fact, everything shown on plan B. Into a retaining wall of stone built on the slope of the hill, was put, first stone, graded from large ones at the bottom to small broken ones near the top, then ashes and finally six inches of sand in which to lay the flags. This formed, not only a solid foundation for the brick walls, but also an absolutely dry bottom on which to place the ground floor. It is my opinion that such a foundation is absolutely essential in any kennels which are



•GROUND PLAN OF KENNEL & YARDS•



•SECOND STORY PLAN•

J.I. Chamberlain - A.I.A.
Architect
Boston
U.S.A.

Editor's Note. Unfortunately there is no detailed plan in the Manuscript itself. The plan shown above is reproduced from A. Henry Higginson's book, "Fox-hunting - Theory and Practice", London, 1948. It is a plan of the kennels that Mr. Higginson had built in South Lincoln, Mass., and the description in the text follows it quite faithfully.

are not situated on dry soil.

Having carefully described the preparation of the foundations, let us see what sort of a building to erect upon it. By referring constantly to the detailed plan, you will, I think, be able to follow me during the description of each room in detail. The feeding room is situated, as will be seen, in the main portion of the building, and it is here that the hounds are fed daily. On one side will be seen stairs leading to the upper story, a heater used only in winter weather, and the visitors' pew, where any one wishing to see hounds fed, or for that matter, to see them at any time, may do so without fear of getting dirty. On the other side is a sink to which is attached a washboard, where the men can scrub their breeches and kennel coats; also some coolers for oatmeal. A couple of cupboards on the wall, used to keep drugs, medicines and surgical instruments in, and a closet under the stair complete the appurtenances. As will be seen, this room is the general room of the building, the only one on the ground floor in fact used for anything except cooking, or lodging room for hounds. At the front end a door leads to the drawing yard where the hounds are drawn into feed, while in the rear there are three doors, one on each side leading to the passage behind the loding rooms and the other to the boiling room.

The boiling room is the kennel kitchen where all the food is prepared. One side, as will be seen, is given up to two great iron boilers holding 60 gallons each which are set in brick and each of which has a fire space beneath, the flues leading to the main chimney in the corner. One of these boilers is used for oatmeal and the other for flesh, the latter having near it a chopping block for meat. On the other side are two tiers of shallow wooden coolers for holding the pudding when cooked until it is fed to the hounds. A closet for the use of the men also opens off this room, while at the rear is a door leading to the road behind the kennels.

On each side of the feeding room will be seen two lodging rooms for hounds, accommodating about 20 couples each; the one side is used for the dog hounds, the other for the bitches, the young hounds being usually given a separate lodging room from the old ones. While the floors of the boiling room, passages and feeding room will be seen to be granolithic, it should be noted that those of the four lodging rooms and of the courts adjoining them are paved with blue stone flags which although a good deal more expensive and more difficult to get, are I am sure a good deal better for the health of the hounds. Just why, I am unable to say, but I have found that kennel lameness absolutely does not exist in my establishment, and I feel sure it is in some considerable measure due to the fact that flags, and not concrete, form the floor of my lodging room and airing courts. The plan shows clearly how this flagging must be laid, the arrows showing the direction of the surface drainage, all of which it will be seen leads to a common outlet at the trap in the foot-bath. Low wooden benches are indicated in the lodging room, and these should not be over eighteen inches from the floor and made to fold up against the wall when not in use or when the room is being washed out. They should never be solid, but made of slats nailed one-half inch apart, so that if hounds stale on their beds as they often do, the moisture will not remain but drain through but drain through to the floor. Each lodging room is provided with two doors, one at the back opening into the passage, and one at the front into the paved courts. The courts in their turn will be seen to be connected with each other, and with the passage at the front of the kennels from which is the main gate leading outside to the road at the front. Directly opposite this gate, and for the distance of six feet each side, this passage is dropped six inches below the main level, thus forming a foot-bath which may be filled with water through which hounds must pass on their way in after hunting thus cleansing their feet from any slight dirt they may have picked up during the day. The partitions dividing these various courts are

perhaps worth a minute's attention. First comes a brick wall two feet high and on this is a palce fence re-enforced for three feet by heavy wire, the whole forming a fence eight feet in height. In some kennels the brick wall is much higher, the advantage being thathounds are not able to see each other and are less likely to quarrel. In England this is very well, but in American where the summer heat becomes so intense I have found that such a high wall is prejudicial to the free circulation of air. So much for the ground floor.

Now let us go up the stairs from the feeding room and examine the arrangement of the upper story. In the rear are two small rooms one occupied by the feeder, and by one of the whippers in, and the second used as an office by the huntsman, unless a second kennel-man happens to be employed, in which case he would very probably occupy it. In the front over the feeding room is a large room used as a trophy room and an office for the master, where he can if he chhoses write up his kennel records or dose in front of the open fire after a good day's sport. Such a room will be found convenient for many occasions and will, I think, be a welcome addition to the ordinary kennel architecture. The space over the lodging rooms is reached by a ladder from the passage and is used as a loft in which to store straw for bedding. A little trap in the ceiling of each lodging room enables a man to sace a good deal of time and labor in making up the beds.

The Huntsman's cottage shown in the block plan may be built to suit the taste of the owner, the only essential quality about it being that it must occupy a similar position, as propinquity to the kennels is very necessary. Just beyond is the hospital, and the only thing to be noted in its construction is that its floor should be of concrete so laid that it will drain to a centre whefe a trap should be provided to let out the water. This concrete floor should then be covered by a moveable slat floor whihh can be taken up when the room is being swilled out, but which is much better for sick dogs than bare cold concrete. This room should be fitted with benches similar to those used in the regular lodging rooms. If expense is no object, steam heat would

be an advantage, though my own hospital is without it and answers most purposes. It will be seen in the plan there are grass courts on three sides of the building, and there is a wooden platform on the south side where sick dogs can lie in the sun.

The meal house, half of which is devoted to a valeting room for the men, is the next building which comes under our notice. Old oatmeal is better for hounds than that more recently ground, and it is also subject to great fluctuations in price, so it is best to have a place in which one can store a large quantity which can then be used as wanted. The meal house shown on the plan will hold 20 tons of oatmeal. This building is built on posts in order to keep out rats and mice. The other half of the building where the meal is not stored is, as I have already said, used by the men as a cleaning room for their boots, breeches, coats, etc. Each man has a closet and a small cupboard for his own use and to these he has the keys. Such a room, while not an absolute necessity, will be found a very great convenience and will add greatly to the comfort of your men. The whelping house back of the main kennels is 50 feet long by 7 feet wide and is divided up into ten compartments, each of which has its own little yard, as will be seen by a glance at the plan. The floors of these yards are concrete, while those of the compartments are of wood, although the concrete runs underneath the whole. The yards slope to the long passage at the end, and it in turn to the gate, so that the entire lot can be well washed out easily. A grass-yard opens off this main passage so that hounds can use it if necessary. These "little places", as they are called by my kennel staff, are used for whelping bitches, or sometimes for disabled hounds for a day or so.

Chapter 111.

Selection of Hounds - Formation of a Pack.

"This Chace I sing hounds, and
Their various breed,
And no less various use".

Somerville.

Chapter 111.

Selection of Hounds - Forming a pack.

I am supposing that you have at last completed your kennels and that you are now ready to go about acquiring the pack with which you hope to show sport in the country which you have decided to hunt. Perhaps the very first question you will try to answer for yourself is "What kind of hounds shall I get and where shall I get them?" and certainly it is one of very great importance.

The English foxhound is the animal with which I am best acquainted, and it is of him that I shall write. Interesting as a discussion enent the comparative merits of the English and American hounds would be, I think that this is hardly the place to undertake it. To the beginner my advice would be to go and see for himself. Go to Baltimore and hunt with the Green Spring Valley hounds over as nice a country as a man could ask for, and where you can see American hounds handled by as clever an amateur huntsman as we have, Mr. Redmon C. Stewart. Then come further north to Philadelphia go out with the Radnor, where the American and English foxhounds have been carefully blended together by Mr. John R. Valantine;- and then when you've seen them at work; take a train farther up the line to the Brandywine kennels where William Thompson, late of the Old Berkely, hunts Mr. Mather's English pack. Come farther north still to the Genesee Valley in New York and have a day with Major William Austin Wadsworth, the dean of foxhunting in America; and then go to Worcester and see the Grafton hounds, unquestionably the most level pack of American hounds in existance to-day, work in the rough woodlands of Worcester County, Massachusetts. And before you leave the old Bay State come to Lincoln and let me give you a day with the Middlesex, and try to show you that hounds bred from the most fashionable blood of the English grass countries can work well under very different conditions.

And when you've seen them all, go home and sit down and light your pipe and think over what you've seen. Compare the conditions in your own country with the conditions under which you've seen the various packs work, and get those hounds which you think will show you the best sport in the long run.

Once you've decided what kind of hounds you want, the next thing is to go about acquiring them. If you have decided to try American foxhounds you will do well to get them from the South where the American breed is undoubtedly produced at its best, and such remarks as may follow in this chapter on the formation of your pack are equally applicable to either breed.

If it is English hounds which you have decided to keep, you can get them from England or from this side of the water as you deem best. If you get them direct from England, either go yourself or send a trusted and experienced friend to buy for you. Remember that no man sells his best hounds unless he's giving up his pack, although you can often get old hounds which are unable to run up, but which were top-notchers in their best days. All the great packs draft each year, and their drafts can usually be procured if spoken for well in advance, otherwise they are sent to the Hound Sale, two of which Messrs. Tattersall's have at Rugby each season, one in April and one in May. At these sales all those hounds which are drafted are sold, that is if not disposed of previously by private sale. My advice to you would be to try to buy the entire draft, young and old of some prominent pack, rather than to buy at the general auction and my reason for doing this is two-fold. In the first place it is less expensive, as hounds of a fashionable pack sometimes make enormous figures at Rugby quite out of proportion to their real value. In the second, it is better to get the best blood in the beginning and then stick to it, at any rate until you have had a certain amount of experience in hound breeding. The drawback to buying an entire draft in this manner is that you must take the good with the bad as they will be sold to you at say £15. a couple and you take the lot; if you were to "pick the draft",

the price would in all probability be double. You will, I dare say, find some men who'll advise you never to buy an entered hound, that they can't hunt, etc., etc. Pay no attention to them. They're quite right they can't hunt, but they can breed you puppies that will, and that's what you want. Remember that old broken down, lame bitches will often produce good hounds. Outside of your draft, I'd try to get hold of a good vigorous young dog to use as a stallion, for although you will find a fairly wide choice of stallions in America to-day, it will be of great use to you to have one or two of your own. You will want, if you intend to hunt two days a week, a pack of about twenty-five couples while thirty-five should be sufficient if you do three days. If, however, you hunt four days a week, you'll find forty to fifty-five about the right number, as you will then have to use two distinct packs; each of them doing two days a week. I should advise you to get more bitches than dogs, certainly for your first year, as you will want to breed pretty extensively, and I think too that in most countries the bitches will do the best work. Dog hounds are perhaps steadier in big woodland countries though hardly as brilliant as "The ladies," which are, I think, the easiest to handle and hunt, especially for a novice.

In selecting your hounds bear in mind that blood will tell, and go to the packs that are noted for the best work, they'll always have lots of good blood. I may tell you here that you'll not be able to have all your new purchases to your liking, but try as far as possible to get big roomy bitches with plenty of bone and substance, always remembering that bone and substance tends to deteriorate, especially in this country and that only the best you can procure along these lines is worth bothering with at all.

So many men have asked me "how do you import hounds?" that I am going to try to tell them here the best way of doing it. When you've bought your hounds in England, go to the agent of any one of the great shipping lines and explain to him what you want. I have found that the officials of the Warren Line S.S. Co., the Leyland Line S.S. Co., and the Atlantic Transport Co., all took the greatest pains to see that hounds had

proper care in their transit. Of course the best way is to have a man of your own come over in charge of them, but if you can't do this, or if you aren't there to see to the shipping yourself, one of the forwarding agents, notably Messrs. R. F.

Dowling & Company will undertake and carry out the importation in all its details and do it well, taking charge of the hounds at Rugby, or at their home kennels, and delivering them to you at your own establishment in good shape.

Custom duties are a matter which also require some attention, and these too will be undertaken by the firm which has acted as your forwarding agent, or for that matter by any regular firm of custom brokers.

Once you get your new charges to your kennels, the bulk of your worry is over, for hounds are not liable to many serious ills arising from a change in climatic conditions, and beyond a simple physic I think there is little to do.

CHAPTER IV.

Kennel management and discipline.

"But here with watchful and observant eye
Attend their frolics which too often end
In bloody broils and death. High o'er thy head
Wave thy resounding whip, and with a voice
Fierce-menacing O'er-rule the stern debate,
And quench their kindling rags, for oft in sport
Begun, combat ensues."

Somerville.

Chapter IV.

Kennel Management.

It matters little whether you have acquired English or American hounds, as regards the details of kennel management which I shall now try to tell you. And where kennel management is concerned I think no one will question the efficacy of the English system. In England foxhunting is made such a business, as well as a sport, that all little details have been looked into and experimented on with a thoroughness hardly possible here, where there is less time devoted to the sport.

We will suppose that you have acquired your pack,- and engaged your hunt servants, two whippers-in, besides your huntsman or kennel-man as the case may be, and a kennelman. If you wish to do the thing economically, you will perhaps have amateur whippers-in, or let your men do stable work when not in the actual discharge of kennel duties, but I am speaking now of a full kennel complement, enough to look after from 40 to 50 couples of hounds; and you will require that many to do four days a week.

Three things are essential to the well being of hounds -- cleanliness, fresh air and exercise, and unless proper attention is paid to these matters you will not get the best results. Beckford has the following to say on the first of these requirements: "As our sport depends entirely on that exquisite sense of smelling, so peculiar to the hound, care just be taken to preserve it, and cleanliness is the surest means. The keeping of your kennels sweet and clean cannot be too much recommended to the feeder; nor should you on any account admit the least deviation from it."

You may perhaps say that every one must be aware of this fact, but visit some of the kennels in this country and see for yourself how many of the men in charge of the packs neglect their work in this respect. I visited an establishment some time since whose huntsman should and does know how important cleanliness is, and yet the smell in the kennels was so strong that it was all I could do to stay and look over the hounds; while at another place the master with whom I went to visit the kennels unexpectedly, had to apologize to me for their condition. I do not mean by this to have you infer that neglect is common, but state these instances merely to show you how easy it is to let matters slip from bad to worse. In both cases the master was as disgusted as I. The old saying, "If you want a thing well done, do it yourself," is a very sound one and applies to kennel management as to all other things. I do not mean you should "muck out" yourself, but I do mean you should personally see to it that your orders are properly carried out.

Lodging rooms and yards should be swilled out each morning, and in addition to this all droppings should be picked up whenever hounds are out walking or at exercise. The reason for this is twofold. First in order to ensure cleanliness, and second because some hounds will always persist in the filthy habit of eating their own excrement whenever they get a chance.

This leads one to the question of exercise and fresh air, and by the latter I don't mean proper ventilation of the kennels, (that you'll have if you've followed my plans in a previous chapter) but having them frequently walked out, not turned loose in a grassyard, for that doesn't answer the same purpose at all. The proper rule is to walk them out the first thing in the morning, again directly after feeding, and again for a considerable time in the afternoon.

One of the main object in walking out is to give hounds a chance to empty, and as proper movement of the bowels is of the utmost importance, see to it that they are always walked out after feeding, no matter how late you come in from

hunting at night. The novice should note the difference between "walking out" and road work,-the latter being more for getting hounds "fit" for the hunting season than anything else.

There are many huntsmen who think that hounds should have road work the year round, (of course not in the hunting season) I don't,- I think that too much of it is inclined to make them stale. The months of June and July are very hot in this country and unless the exercising is very early in the morning it will take a lot out of them. I begin my cubbing early in August so that my hounds must be on the road by the first of July; but I let them do without it from the time they stop hunting, usually about April 1st, till then, and find them none the worse for their three months vacation.

When you do finally begin you cannot give them too slow work on the road. Keep them out about an hour for the first week, and then increase the length of time, but not the pace, little by little until they are doing from fifteen to twenty miles daily. Long slow work is most essential, it hardens feet and gets their respiratory organs into good shape so that when they do begin work, they will be able to run at top speed for two or three miles without being blown. The latter, by the way, is often cause for hounds checking after a sharp burst early in the season. If you have made up your mind to hunt your pack yourself do as much of this road work with them as you can. It isn't essential after they get to know you, but it is always good plan to do it whenever you can spare the time as you can't get too well acquainted with your hounds. The better they know you the better they will work for you when the time comes.

Always turn yourself and your men out properly for exercise. Boots and breeches, scarlet coats with black "pot hats" is the rule in England, and it is best followed here. It is good for hounds and men, for the former because it gets the young 'uns accustomed to the look of hunt servants. for the latter because it

keeps men up to the mark. I know there are those who will laugh at me for this,- but why not do it well? It's a little more trouble that's all, and it certainly does look better to see men smartly turned out.

And now as to feeding. Experience has proved pretty conclusively that the best staple diet for hounds is old oatmeal, the best that can be procured. In the "old country" a great deal of flesh is also used, but I have found from long experience that it is most to use flesh in great quantities in this country, at any rate in summer. Our climate is so hot that it is impossible to keep meat fresh for any length of time, and while I don't believe that tainted flesh, if well boiled, is in any way seriously injurious to hounds, I do think that they are much better off without it. In cold weather when hounds are working hard it is a different matter, but even then I should advise you to make oatmeal the basis of your food. The oatmeal is boiled until it forms a thick pudding when it is put into wooden coolers and allowed to harden, after which it is put into the feeding trough when wanted and broken up. To this add milk in summer and a small quantity of dog biscuit, while in the winter soup from the flesh boiled and a quantity of cooked meat is the usual addition. Both coppers should be cleaned daily.

It sometimes happens that thin ailing hounds will not do well on this regular summer diet, in which case I have found that canned flesh, procurable at a small cost from any dealer in kennel food, is a good addition. "Greaves" should never be fed.

The actual feeding of hounds should be done with the greatest of care, as it is of immense importance to their welfare. It is perhaps needless for me to tell you that hounds, like human beings, vary in their appetites, one hound filling himself with a few gulps, while another will require coaxing to get him to do proper justice. The proper plan is for the hounds to be called into the feeding yard

and then when the feed is all ready in the trough, the feeder stands at the door of the feeding house and calls them in one at a time. First the dainty feeders who pick and lap here and there, and lastly those gluttons who would eat more than was good for them if allowed to. When they have partly sated their appetites call them all out again and repeat the operation, first letting your kennel-man thicken up the food for the light feeders. Here again as in the case of exercising, it is not essential that you attend to the feeding, even if you hunt them yourself. It is a well-known fact that hounds will always go to the man that shows them sport in preference to anyone else. Still it is a good plan to feed them now and again as it can do no harm, and will often give you an insight into certain peculiarities of a hound which you may not know.

A few words here as to the time of feeding and the difference of the food in winter and summer. During the hunting season, feed your working pack when they come in, if the weather is not too hot, if it is, give them an hour to cool off before letting them at their food. Feed those hounds which have not been out, about ten or eleven o'clock as suits your convenience. During the hot summer months when you're not hunting, hounds are better fed at four or five in the afternoon as it isn't good for them to go about with a full stomach on a hot day. As a rule they should be fed but once a day, though the thin ones may have a lat at odd times. In hot weather the feed should be mixed less thick than in winter and it may also be fed quite cold, while in winter the chill should always be taken off by mixing with warm broth instead of cold. In summer too it is a wise plan to boil up greens for hounds, as it is a most excellent thing for their blood. Of course,, I need not tell you that hounds should never be fed on the same day on which they hunt until they are through with their days work.

It is a good plan to brush them over after feeding, or while they are walking out, with a dandy brush, particularly in spring and fall when they are changing their coats. In doing this always brush with the hair and don't let your men "bottom" the coats as is done in the case of a horse. Remember that a hound doesn't sweat and that his skin is clean and free from scruff when in a healthy state. Don't use dressing if you can possibly avoid it, except in the case of young hounds coming in from walk, immersion in sheep dip will answer the purpose and is infinitely better in every way. Of course you'll have cases of hounds which you may buy that may need a good dressing, but your own should never be allowed to get into that condition.

And now I come to the question of discipline. Prompt obedience from your hounds you must have. If they don't mind you in the kennels they won't do what you ask them to in the field; but you mustn't kill their natural dash or subdue entirely their spirit of independence. Some English hounds have too little of this, most American hounds too much, and it must be your task to get just the right proportion of both; and your pleasure to make them so fond of you that they will "fly to you like pigeons" when you want them.

Punishment is unfortunately necessary at times. "Spare the rod and spoil the child," applies to a hound as to a boy: but when you think it must be done be sure that your hound knows what he is being chastised for, and don't ever do it yourself. Hounds should always look on their huntsman as a friend and feel that in his presence they are safe from chastisement, and while this rule can't always be carried out to the letter, it should be adhered to as much as possible.

You must be very careful, however, not to let your men kill the natural dash and spirit, without which any foxhound is worthless. Some hounds are naturally timid and the single stroke of a whip will cow them for some time while others take a flogging as if they liked it. To give you an instance of this:- I well remember while hunting

in the South that one day, when the pack had been without blood for a long time, I was drawing a large woodland; and two of my most reliable hounds, one of them a four season hunter, spoke to the line of a shoat and before my men could stop them they half killed it. My first whipper-in got down off his horse, caught the two offenders, who looked very shame-faced and coupled them up to a rail. I took the pack a few yards away and then the two delinquents were given the worst flogging I ever saw hounds receive. When it was over they were released and came to the pack hackles up and growling as hounds do when rejoining the pack at any time. They never hunted hogs again. That is one example, the other side of the question was shown in the case of a young bitch who was punished in a far less thorough manner for running sheep. She went home and it was a long time before she was good for much again. Personally I am inclined to think that if the fault is committed and the offender can be reached at the time, he'd better have his flogging, and if it ruins him he'd better be drafted.

Kennel discipline is rather a different matter and I think that this is better accomplished by patience and kindness than by corporal punishment. Patience in the kennels will work wonders, and tales of the wonderful control some huntsmen acquire over their hounds are without number. Jim Brindly, the huntsman of the Ward Union hounds in Ireland, has a trick which he sometimes performs for the benefit of visitors to the kennels which is perhaps worthy of note; particularly as I can vouch for its authenticity. He fills his feed trough and lets hounds into the feed room where they stand on each side of it with their muzzles in the food, but without eating anything. The huntsman then stands at the head of the trough and tells his visitors to cheer his hounds into the food--say anything they like, but all to no avail. Then he says a little grace, "For what we are about to receive may the Lord make us truly thankful." Still no move on the part of the hounds, "Amen," and then what a gulping and lapping of food. "A useless trick," you'll say; Aye to be sure it is, but it illustrates the

control he has them in. Scrutator tells us of a huntsman who could separate the dogs and bitches by simply calling out "dog-hounds" or "bitch hounds," as the case may be, and this is a thing I have seen done in my own kennels, to the astonishment of some American hound men who did not believe it possible.

And now in closing this chapter let me summarize what I have said by giving you certain rules which if followed will surely bring about the best results.

First. Insist on the most scrupulous cleanliness.

Second. Have hounds out frequently.

Third. Give them lots of long slow work on the road.

Fourth Insist on implicit obedience from hounds, but

Fifth. Get it by kindness and not by brutality.

CHAPTER V.

Breeding. Selection of sire and dam. Care of bitches in Whelp.

Whelping care of the puppies.

"For every longing dame select
Some happy paramour; to him alone
In leagues connubial join. Consider well
His lineage; what his fathers did of old,
Chiefs of the pack, and first to climb the rock,
Or plunge into the deep, or thread the brake
With thorns sharp pointed, plashed, and briers
inwoven,
Observe with care his shape, sort, color, size."

Somerville.

CHAPTER V.

Breeding; selection of sire and dam. Care of bitches in whelp. Care of young whelps, their ailments, etc.

With the American hound I am not very familiar, but a few men in the South have taken great pains to breed them along regular lines, and for detailed accounts of their breeding operations, I must refer you to "The American Foxhound," by Hayden C. Trigg, and to "Horse and Hound," by General Roger D. Williams, of Kentucky. Both of these men have made a careful study of the blood lines of the American hound, and both of them are breeders of practical experience, so that I feel that any further remarks of mine on the subject would be superfluous.

The foxhound as he exists to-day in England, is perhaps the most highly bred animal in existence, and in point of symmetry and perfection of working qualities he has no equal for the purpose for which he is used. I say this unhesitatingly, and I do not think that anyone who has made a careful study of foxhunting will deny that in his own country the English Foxhound stands preeminent.

Here in America the conditions of climate, soil, foxes, and country, are very different from those existing in England:- but we have before us the results which have been attained by several men who have spent a great deal of time and thought in an effort to produce an animal which in their opinion, is best suited to their respective countries. It is a fact, that all these men have reached one conclusion in common, which is that hounds to do best on American soil should be bred in this country. Three of them have worked along different lines, and as all of them have succeeded in a measure in what they have tried to do, it seems to me well worth while to hear what they have to say on the subject.

Major William Austin Wadsworth, of Geneseo, New York, who has been fitly called the dean of American Foxhunting, first began to keep hounds in 1876, and since that time has maintained from thirty-five to forty couples at his own expense, and

with them he has hunted foxes in the Genesee Valley of New York. Writing of his breeding operations, he says: "My hounds are for the most part of pure English blood, although I tried an outcross on one of Mr. Walker's American hounds, a dog called "Roger;" and many of my best to-day have a little of this blood in their veins, although I can scarcely distinguish the difference in appearance. In 1880 my first draft came from Lord Fitzhardinge's among which I remember "Ruler" 1876, whom I used a good deal (Lord Fitzhardinge's "Ruler" 1876, is by "Ringwood" 1870, by "Rutland" 1866, by "Rioter" 1863, by "Belvoir Rufus" 1856, by "Guider" 1851, who was by "Mr. Drakes Duster" 1844, one of the most noted hounds of the day in England.) There were also "Castor" 1880, and "Viscount" 1881, both of whom run through the Belvoir to the great Osbaldeston Furrier. In 1887 I had a new draft from Sir Bache Cunard's among which there were a number of most excellent hounds, but I found them a bit light of tongue, and to rectify this defect I bred to hounds imported from Lord Tredegar's, and the Duke of Beaufort's, with good results. In 1894 my friend, Captain Martin, of Genesee, picked me up a very good draft from the Holderness, and these did us a lot of good."

By referring to the Stud-book I find that, with the exception of the one outcross mentioned above, Major Wadsworth has bred to stallions from the fashionable packs which hunt in the grass countries of England with apparently very satisfactory results. From 1900 to 1904 he had a good many hounds from the Atherstone, and at the sale of Mr. Wroughton's hounds, in 1908 he bought the Woodland Pytchly Hazelwood 1907, said to be one of the best stallions in England at this time. Poole, Major Wadsworth's huntsman, tells me that the get of this dog, which hunted this year for the first time, have been eminently satisfactory, and that Hazelwood himself was a wonderfully good hound in his work.

Turning to another Master—Mr. Charles E. Mather, of Philadelphia,—we find him even more orthodox in his views on blood lines than Major Wadsworth. He says "In my opinion the American hound is not a distant breed, we come down to the distinction

of hounds of pure blood and hounds that have been crossed with other breeds. These crosses have been so numerous that it is impossible to breed these crossed or so-called "native" hounds with any degree of certainty as to what the produce will be. It is a demonstrated fact that every departure in breeding from the pure blood is a step backwards, and destroys some one of the qualities necessary to that perfect hound for the chase, which has been brought about by centuries of breeding in England. Where this pure blood is developed in America and hunted on our wilder foxes, I think that the result is a more alert and active hound, although in time it may have less bone than those bred in the old country. I have seen many, but I never saw a hound in America which I thought could possibly improve a good English hound by crossing. The crossing has all been done--by those who know anything about it--by breeding their best made American bitches in a pure blooded English hound."

Mr. Mather got his parent stock from the Belvoir, the fountain head of all that is good in foxhound blood--in 1892-- and in the nineteen years he has had them he has at no time used other than stallions of pure English blood. He has bred many good ones himself, notably Glancer 1901, said by him to be the best hound in his work he has ever had, and he has imported stallions from England from time to time; with the result that to-day he has as good a working pack as any in America, although I personally think there has been a bit too much inbreeding.

And now we come to a third man--Mr. John R. Valentine, late M.F.H. of Radnor-- a man who in my opinion has developed the best half-bred pack that ever hunted a fox. Taking the Radnor pack in 1901, when it consisted only of an unmanageable, undisciplined lot of hounds, Mr. Valentine set to work to improve it along lines which he had carefully thought out. Not long ago I spent a very interesting evening with Mr. Valentine and he told me his theory and the way he had developed the Radnor pack.

"In all hybrids", he said, "the offspring gets its voice from the sire, and its size and conformation from the dam, witness the "mule" and the hinny, etc. I therefore came to the conclusion that my best plan was to get some good English bitches,, and breed them to an American hound I had called "Leader", who was one of the best working hounds I ever saw. I also had a theory that I had better get bitches, not from the fashionable grass country packs, but from the hill countries of England and Scotland where the conditions were more like those which prevailed here in America. Accordingly, I made a sort of sporting pilgrimage to Scotland and the border countries and I was lucky enough to get hold of four bitches from the Fife, and also one from the Duke of Buccleuch's. These I brought home and bred, as I had intended, to "Leader", with the result that I got very much the sort of hound I had looked for, and that sort were the foundation of what the Radnor pack is to-day. In no case have I used the English top cross i. e. an English stallion on an American bitch, I don't believe in it."

Now the pack that Mr. Valentine developed were big, strong hounds with nearly the bone and substance of an English hound, yet possessing the voice and characteristics of the American sire. I can't see that they were any improvement on what Mr. Mather developed by sticking to pure blood, but they certainly did their work well, and were a credit to their master and huntsman.

My own experience has been entirely along orthodox lines and I have been very successful in producing, not only hounds that could hunt as well as their contemporaries, but that also compared very favorably in conformation with the good packs in England. My theory is in some measure like Mr. Mather's, I agree with him that it is best to use none but the best English blood, and also I feel sure that hounds bred in this country do their work better, but we differ on one essential point. Mr. Mather believes in breeding from a hound which has proven himself good in his work--whether his conformation

be good or bad--without regard for the blood lines which our English cousins have studied to a degree which none of us over here have. I have found that by watching carefully the hounds themselves and then by studying their pedigrees one can usually find where they get certain qualities which they may possess; and once you get to know where to go for any quality desired, nose, or pace, or voice - it makes the whole science of hound breeding easier and more interesting. Moreover, one must carefully guard against too close interbreeding lest your hounds lose their constitutions and become weakly and prone to disease.

American Masters have one very great disadvantage, i.e. lack of choice of the blood to breed from. By this I mean that where an English Master has at his command the stallions of the Belvoir, Brocklesbey, Fitzwilliam, Badminton, Warwickshire, and many many others, the American M.F.H. is lucky if he has half a dozen to pick from; that is, if he is going to stick to pure blood. The best thing a prospective M.F.H. can do is to go to England attend the Foxhound show at Peterborough, in July. He will see there foxhounds from the best packs in the United Kingdom, the result of careful breeding by men whose sole aim in life is the production of the best hounds with which to hunt a fox. By talking with the Masters and huntsmen he will find assembled there on the day of the show, he will acquire more knowledge than years of reading would give him.

Of late years a national hound show has been instituted at South Lincoln, Massachusetts, and if you cannot get away to England you will do well to go there and study the type of hound which is aimed at by the principal packs. But seeing hounds "on the flags" is not the only thing you must do, a rogue may be ever so good looking, and yet be quite worthless in the field. Go then when the season has begun to the various countries and see the stallions you have picked at the show, at work. To the novice this is a difficult thing, for when hounds are running it takes a very quick eye to detect which of them are carrying the line. When they are drawing it is not so difficult, as at that time hounds are scattered more, and their individual work can

be better seen. Of course you will have acquired some stallions in the purchase of your original pack, but even so, it will be best for you to be ever on the lookout for fresh outside blood.

Beckford's rules in respect to breeding are worthy of note as is all that he writes. He says, "Consider the size, shape and color, constitution and natural disposition of the dog you breed from, as well as the fineness of his nose, his stoutness and method of hunting. On no account breed from one that is now stout, that is not tender nosed, or that is either a babbler or a skirter."

Never breed to a crooked or misshapen hound, or to one who has any bad faults in the field, and if you are trying to keep your pack of a good color, be chary of using a stallion whose color is not good. Bad colored stallions will sometimes get good colored pups, but you should be sure that they track back to hounds whose color is similar to that which you wish. Tongue is another very important quality, particularly for this country. Over here our coverts are large and thick, and if hounds do not speak freely they will often get away from their huntsman and field to the great discomfiture of both. In America I think that Mr. Mather's Galloper 1908, and Mr. Fernie's Somerset, 1905, the latter at the kennels of the Middlesex, are the two best stallions to breed to for voice that I know of.

But there are twenty stallions in England to-day to every one in America, and although few of these are directly available to the American M.F.H. it is in my opinion essential that any breeder of foxhounds should know something of them. I am therefore quoting from an article by Mr. G. S. Lowe, whose writings on the foxhound are too well known to need recommendation. In an article which appeared in Baily's magazine in 1906 he says: "There will always be a certain amount of controversy in regard to the choice of sires. Some people are bigoted enough still in the belief that good looks and a level formation have nothing to do with the success of hound-breeding, and that attention only should be paid to abilities in the hunting field. If this had been the dictum of the Dukes of Rutland and Beaufort

or of Lord Henry Bentinck, or Mr. G. S. Foljambe, the breed would have well nigh died out; but the great masters would have necks and shoulders, intelligent heads, deep ribs, straightness in fore legs, and the round cat like foot. There is everything to charm one in the well-bred foxhound, and is there anything like him? The Peterborough Hound Shows have done good in bringing the best looking together, and in giving opportunities for seeing the best. These has been everything to prove that the best looking are generally the greatest, they are so in nineteen cases out of twenty, and as they are picked for appearance as puppies there should be nothing to offend the eye at all in any well regulated pack. At Belvoir a moderate looking one even cannot be seen Belvoir has never shown at Peterborough or any other show but the ducal kennel has always had plenty of mention there as a great many winners have been by its sires It is now thirty years ago (1876) since Belvoir Weathergage was entered, and what an enormous amount of good has come from that single hound. At home he was the sire of Gambler and Gameboy, besides other of lesser note; and for other packs there was the Brocklesby Weathergage, the Fitzwilliam Weathergage, the Grafton Why Not, the Southwold Freeman, and the Warwickshire Why Not, all very noted hounds. One can scarcely say how many more famous sons of Weathergage there were, but just as he was spoken of by Frank Gillard as the best hound he ever hunted, Mr. Rawnsley of the Southwold says the same of ~~his~~ Freeman, whilst very similar in character, must have been the Grafton Why Not. In the next generation the excellence was again well continued; as where have better hounds been seen than the sons of Gambler with Nominal and Gordon at home, and Lord Middleton's Grimthrope and Grasper, Mr. Auston Mackenzie's Rallywood, Lord Galway's Gambler and the Grafton General and Gordon? Gameboy brother to Gambler, brought more kudos to the famous line as he was the sire of the Holderness Gaffer, sire of their Steadfast, and the has been very useful in other packs. The line has apparently got stronger in years and generations, as from Watchman, son of Nominal, comes Dexter a great

sire certainly during the last six or seven years, and his son Stormer is the most fashionable if not the greatest of the day.Stormer though, was in no degree more popular or useful than his sire Dexter, whose son, Dayster, was supposed to have been the best looking hound bred at Belvior since Gambler, but he was unfortunately killed by a kick in the hunting field. Dasher another son of Dexter met with a similar fate."

Mr. Lowe then goes on to tell of the various sires of to-day in England who can trace their pedigrees back to Belvior Weathergage. Another sire who has set his stamp on the foxhounds of to-day is the Fitzwilliam "Potent", bred by Will Barnard, huntsman to the Fitzwilliam "Potent" who was entered in 1901, is a gray pied hound, rather an unattractive color but many of his progeny are either Belvoir tan in color or approaching it, while few of them take after their sire. His sire was the Wentworth Proctor 1898, and he in his turn was by the Grafton Pirate 1891, by Belvoir Pirate 1886 by Proctor 1881, by Struggler 1875, by Ruler 1867; while his dam Tynedale Ardent 1897 was acquired during the mastership of Mr. C. B. Wright, she being by the Grafton Artist 1891, and he by the Quorn Artist 1887, by the Rufford Galliard. Thus it will be seen that the "Potent" is full of Belvoir blood, which accounts for the color of many of his progeny. At the Peterborough show in 1907, and 1908, the "Potent" blood was very much in evidence, such hounds as "Paato", "Rector", "Saladin", etc. representing him. Eleven and a half couples of "Potent's" progeny are in the Fitzwilliam pack to-day, while his blood is sought after all over England".

Still another line which has sprung into prominence of late years is that which runs to Belvoir Weathergage, through the Grafton Woodman 1892, many noted hounds have this strain of blood in their veins--the V.W.H. (Cricklade) Worcester 1899, Belvoir Weaver 1906 etc., and speaking from personal experience I know that all my hounds possessing this strain are brilliant workers in the field.

I am afraid I've been led into too detailed an account of some of the great English hounds, but if you my budding young foxhunter will once see the Belvoir you'll be bitten with an ambition to emulate it so far as in you lies. Even with an unlimited supply of money you can't expect to produce its like in a lifetime (three famous Belvoir huntsmen Goodall, Goosey and Gillard have bred along the same lines to accomplish that) but if you select your sires carefully you should be able to breed a very decent pack in a few years. I've said a great deal about the Belvoir blood, but I don't think I've put it too strongly, it's the best there is; and now I shall tell you where in this country you can best get it.

At Wechester, Pennsylvania in the kennels of the Brandywine are two Belvoir bred stallions Druggist 1904, by the famous Dexter 1895 out of Victress, a little sister to Vagabound 1899, himself a famous Belvoir sire; and Charon 1909 by Whitaker, brother to Weaver 1906, thus giving a line to the Grafton Woodman strain spoken of already. Besides these three are two home bred stallions Galliard and Governor 1905, by Belvoir Vampire 1900,, if you wish breed to stock bred in this country.

At Lincoln in the kennels of the Middlesex you can have a wide choice of stallions. There is Mr. Fernies Somerset 1905, by Belvoir Vagabond out of Mr. Fernie's Songbird 1900, a fine upstanding old hound whose get have been very successful in the field and on the flags; and Mr. Fernie's Standard 1904, by Belvoir Stormer 1899 out of Mr. Fernie's Worthy 1900, champion bitch at Peterborough in 1901; there is Belvoir Rufus 1906, by Ranter 1903, out of Winsome 1903 who runs to Grafton Woodman, and then if you want to try Scotch blood there is Roister 1905 from the Duke of Buccleugh's kennels, besides two or three young home-bred stallions of lesser importance--all of them workers and all of them good enough to win in any show ring.

At Montreal you will find at Cote-de-Niege a little outside the town, in the kennels of the Montreal Hunt, one stallion who should be of the greatest benefit to breeders of foxhounds in this country - the V.W.H. (Cricklade) Wellbeck 1904, by their Worcester 1899. Wellbeck is a good hound in his work and moreover gives one the Grafton

Woodman blood through an absolutely fresh channel, the V.W.H. and besides Wellbeck there are other excellent stallions at Montreal. Both the Master A. E. Ogilvie and the huntsman, Will Nicholls, are most courteous and painstaking in looking after bitches shipped to the kennels to be bred.

This leads me to a point which I find isn't understood by some of the younger masters in this country. In England and here in America, there is an understanding between all Masters of Foxhounds to the effect that all stallions are to be used by them without any charge for service, - other than a nominal present to the kennelman or huntsman to repay him for any trouble he may have. We all want to do what we can to improve the breed of Foxhounds in this country and take this way to do it.

In any case, whether you use a sire on this side of the water, or import one, there are certain points you must observe in his selection aside from any question of field ability. Let me admonish you then to see to it that he has a good bone which which should be carried right down to the toes, and that he is not weak at the knees or too long in his pasterns; (the shorter the better). Straight of course he must be, and he should have a good neck and well placed shoulders. Many men will tell you that a hound with no very great amount of bone is all right to use as a sire. Don't listen to them. Remember that hounds invariably deteriorate in the matter of bone, and that many a hound has sufficient bone to carry himself through life, and yet not enough to justify his being used as a sire. Whenever possible see a hound's progeny, and then you can judge for yourself as to what he will produce for you, and select each sire with some special bitch in view always bearing in mind that the faults of the one should not be present in the other, or they will probably be accentuated in the puppies. Remember too that old bitches mate best with young vigorous stallions, and vice versa. The science of breeding foxhounds or for that matter any other animals, consists in the proper selection of sire and dam, a bitch that may throw the best of pups by one stallion hound, may produce poor ones when mated to another, who may be himself of better quality. There is one good rule to follow and that is if you mate two hounds

and produce good results stick to it, and don't go experimenting or you'll probably make a mess of it.

Frank Gillard of the Belvoir, the man who bred Weathergaze and Gambler, Dexter and Nominal, and whose judgment of a hound was looked upon in England with the greatest respect, was perhaps the greatest breeder of hounds the world has ever seen; he thoroughly understood the principles of the science, and left behind him a reputation for judicious selection and combination of hereditary qualities. He had so studied his hounds that if he wanted a particular quality he knew where to go for it. Thus the "Guardian"- "Needless" family were celebrated through "Newsman" for their power of carrying a line down a road; the Weathersgaze line for hard work with strenuous and beautiful tongues, of which family Gambler was the most distinguished representative..... He was an excellent huntsman in the field. Gillard was in charge of the Belvoir hounds from 1870 to 1896 and when he retired after 26 years service he received a very handsome testimonial from the members of the Field.

At the risk of tiring my readers I am going to tell them how Frank Gillard impressed me when I had the pleasure of meeting him one day some years ago. It was at the Puppy show of Pytchly hounds that I found myself standing next to a little man who had been watching Lord Annalley's young entry with the keenest interest. Presently there came in a dog by a Belvoir sire who was who was a good bit the best of the lot. My neighbor's face brightened up. "That's the sort," he said, "and the color." And so we got drawn into conversation and he presently asked me what country I hunted in. "The Middlesex," I said "in New England, not this side." At once he was interested and wanted to know all about the hunting in America, etc., and happening to have a hound list with me I drew it out and showed it to him. In a minute his eye fell on the name of one of my hounds, "Dasher," by the Belvoir "Dasher." "Is that a good hound?" he asked. "Yes," I said. "He should be, I know his grandsire well. I bred him."

And then I knew who he was. We had a very interesting and pleasant chat, and at the end of it he said to me, "Good-bye sir, I'm glad to have met you, and I'm glad they are breeding to the best in the new country. I'd like to see it. I had the honor of hunting the best hounds in the world for twenty-six years over the best hunting country in the world, and my happiest days were behind my hounds. May I wish you the same future sir?"

You should begin putting your bitches to your dogs any time after October 15th and I should not advise you to breed anything later than May 15th, and even that would bring the whelps into the world about the middle of July, which is really about a month too late. The advantage in having bitches whelp early is that the pups get a good start, and are out and running about by the time the warm weather comes, and so can take advantage of it. Late pups hardly get growth enough by the time the cold weather sets in, and so are a bit backward the following spring when they come in from walk, besides being pretty young to go into the kennels and begin their life work.

As soon after breeding as your bitch shows any signs of being in whelp, say four weeks or so, take her out of the kennels and let her roam about by herself where she wills, unless of course she wants to go hunting with the pack, which should never be allowed to do. In this way she will get a lot of exercise, and it is much better for them than being simply kept in. Worms in puppies are a great pest in this country far more than in England, and I always make it a rule to give the dam a dose of worm medicine ten days or so before whelping.

Most foxhound bitches will have eight or ten pups, sometimes as many as fifteen, and I think it is needless for me to tell you that no bitch can look after that number successfully. Bitches vary very much in this respect. Some if they are very strong will rear as many as six, while others will look after only two to advantage. By watching them carefully you can judge of this matter for yourself, but remember that two puppies well nursed are worth a dozen runts. It is a very difficult matter to

give any rule which can be followed unhesitatingly for the selection of puppies to be kept in such cases. It may be that you desire to have a preponderance of our sex, or it may be, and this is a point which is of minor importance is well worth consideration, that you are trying to emulate that greatest of all packs the Belvoir, and are trying to get hounds of a certain color. At the time when such a selection has to be made there is little else to go by for the runt of to-day may be the best of the little in the course of a week. If you will take my advice you will adopt the latter course and you'll be glad you did in the end. Put down ruthlessly all bad colored pups at once, don't wait four or five days, or you may find it difficult to harden your heart. Whenever you can arrange to do so, it is best to have two or three bitches whelp within a day or so of each other as in that case one bitch may help the other out in the matter of raising pups. I have always found it a perfectly easy thing to do when puppies are comparatively young to shift puppies from one to the other though it is sometimes difficult later on. And let me caution you now about one thing, and that is that in shifting pups you must not fail to put a distinguishing mark on them, which can be done readily by cutting certain little buttons or flaps in the ear, (you will tattoo them later) and writing them down at once in a book kept for that purpose. This book should also contain the date of breeding, date of birth, number of litter with sex, etc. together with the names of sire and dam of each litter; and should be kept by you or your kennel huntsman with the most scrupulous accuracy. Don't think you'll remember; do all such things at once at the time when you know, and then there'll be no mistake. These little details may seem to you of no importance, but you must remember that breeding records are of no use unless they are absolutely accurate. On page .. I have shown a sample leaf of such a book, which can be procured from this office of the Biographical Press,, 12 Henrietta St. London.

Let the bitch whelp in a small place by herself, and as soon as the pups have dried off, take her outside and put her in a little puppy house by herself if the weather is warm enough. I must explain to you that bitches which are put out in this way do far better, than if allowed to stay in one of the whelping pens already described. These puppy houses resemble the old style dog kennels and have the roof hinged at one side, so that it can be raised in hot weather for purposes of ventilation. They should have a door at each end, hinged at the bottom, so that when it is let down the inside forms a little runway in which pups can go to and from the house. The object in having two doors is that the one away from the wind can be opened without turning the house around. These houses should be fitted with broad wooden wheels so that they can be moved about. The accompanying photograph shows quite plainly the style of house used; and I should advise you to have at least a dozen of them made. You can then place your various litters in them, all over your grounds, the farther away from the kennels, and from each other, the better. They should be moved from time to time as fresh ground is of the utmost importance for young pups. This then should be their home until they are ready to go out to walk, at say six weeks of age.

If your litter is born early in the season, it is as well to wait until they get their eyes open before putting them out, but just as soon as they are strong enough they should go, as they will do very much better in the open air, and they will keep each other warm. When the pups are a few days old, you should remove the dewclaws on the fore legs with a pair of sharp scissors. They are little more than gristle at this time and the operation will give the puppy little or no pain. When they are about three or four weeks old, they will crawl outside the house, and also begin to lap a little milk which they should be encouraged to do as early as possible. Don't forget that this is the time to get them well started, and if you hire a boy to take charge of your puppies only, you will do a very wise thing.

Worms will be your greatest trouble at this time, and you should watch carefully for symptoms of them in your youngsters, and act promptly. If you have faithfully followed my advice and given your brood bitches a dose of worm medicine you may be sure that the pussies will be free from them for two or three weeks, but after that the chances are ten to one that they are present. Anyone who is used to dogs can detect the presence of worms in puppies, but it is best to give a dose of worm medicine every three weeks on principal. It does no harm and is probably needed. The recipe for the best worm medicine I know of is given in chapter seven.

There is also a little white louse by which puppies are greatly tormented, they form into bunches on the neck and back and will produce mange unless speedily removed. Oil thickened with sulphur to the consistency of cream will destroy them and will injure neither whelps or mother.

Remember that the whole future success of your pack depends on the quality of what you produce each year, for although you can always add to your pack by procuring drafts from other kennels, it will be on those which you yourself breed that you will most rely. Therefore I cannot advise you too strongly to get good walks for your puppies so that they can be sent away soon after they are eight weeks old. In England it was at one time compulsory for the tenants of great estates to walk puppies for the local packs, but to-day this is done away with, though there are some old leases which still contain such a clause. The English, however, are such a sport loving nation that now-a-days there is little or no trouble in finding walks. In this country, however, conditions are somewhat different although if you go about it the right way, and the right way is to make friends with the farmers' wives, you will usually manage to find plenty.

Remember that you must send out your pups in perfect condition for if you don't, those who take them are apt to get disgusted and think they've not been given a fair chance at the prizes for which they intend to compete at your puppy show, which I shall speak of in a further chapter. A poem on walking puppies which

was published in Bailey's Magazine some years ago, is so much to the point that I am tempted to give it, but admonish you not to show it to intending victims:-

"Will you walk a puppy? the Hunt enquired

Being sportsmen, we did as the Hunt desired,

And early in June there arrived a man

With an innocent bundle of white and tan

A fat little foxhound, bred to the game

With a rollicking eye, and league long name,

And he played with a cork on the end of a string

And walking a puppy was "just the thing."

But the days went by and the bundle grew

And broke the commandments and stole and slew

And covered the lawn with a varied loot

Of fowl and feather and bone and boot,

And scratched in the garden a hundred holes,

And wearied our bodies, and damned our souls

And we chased him over the plots and swore

There'd be "walking a puppy " for us no more.

If he's half as good in a woodland ride

As he is at tucking ducks inside,

And half as keen on the scent of a fox

As he is at finding my red silk Sox,

It is safe to bet when our hound goes back

He will make a name in the local pack,

Though his soul be as black as the Master's oaths

He will stick to a line _____ if it's hung with clothes.

It is customary before sending your hounds out to walk, to name them, and a system should be followed in this as in all other things, pertaining to the pack. At Middlesex we name the puppies with names beginning with the first two letters of the bitch's name as Bridegroom, Brigand, Brilliant, Bridle, and Bribery out of Bridesmaid, by Dasher. This is the usual system followed in England and it is a very good one as it enables anyone to place the litter in an instant. It is best at the same time to tatoo distinguishing marks in the ears of each litter; as C.11.B. (litter C of the year 1911 in one ear) and M.H. (or any distinguishing mark of the pack) in the other. When all these little details have been carefully attended to you may send out the youngsters and a bottle of worm medicine, and one of mange cure should go out with each pup, with directions for using. It is a good plan to impress on the persons to whom the puppy goes that he must have his liberty and be allowed to run around all he wants. Pups which are shut up in small or even in large yards never get their growth and their legs and feet suffer in a way one would scarcely believe. You will do no harm by going to see your pups every month or so, if the puppy walkers find you take an interest so will they. Remember that this is to be your youngster's home till late in March, and do all you can to impress on the good people with whom he is to live these two facts: First all the liberty he wants, Second, all the food he'll eat. If these two rules are observed you'll get a good bit of material on which to work when he comes in.

CHAPTER VI.

Treatment of young hounds on entering the kennels.

Rounding,- its uses: Breaking to couples. The puppy show.

Exercising. Entering young hounds. Cub hunting.

About April you will want to get your youngsters in from their walks, and from the day they come in until you have made your final draft, you cannot give them too much of your time. They will come to the kennels in all sorts of conditions, some half starved and sickly, others fat as prize hogs, and a few looking well, but it must be your object to get them all looking as fit as possible for your puppy show which you should hold early in June. Don't forget that young hounds coming in to the kennels will all be strange to its ways and discipline; and see to it that your men are patient and quiet with them at this period. They are like children and can be easily ruined at this stage of their lives, and if once they are cowed it will be a long time before they get over it. In many packs in England the weedy, crooked or misshapen puppies are apt to be sent away at once in the first draft, but I have always made it a rule not to draft anything until after the puppy show. Your puppy walkers have taken a great deal of pains with their charges, and some of them would be bitterly disappointed if they were not at least allowed to compete in the show, no matter how remote the chance of winning; and one of the most important things is to keep your puppy walkers satisfied, as upon them depends the welfare of your future pack. Most young hounds when they come into kennels are bothered by worms, although it is often difficult to detect their presence, and the best and safest way is to give them all a dose of worm medicine whether you think they need it or not. This should be done without fail as the chance of a hound pulling through distemper is much better if he is fit. As soon as all your youngsters are in, they should be rounded, and care must be taken that this is not done unless the weather is warm and mild, as otherwise they may catch cold and endless complications may ensue. "Rounding" is an English custom, and one not generally practiced in this country, and I must therefore say for the benefit of the uninitiated that it consists

in removing a crescent shaped piece from the end of the ear, varying in size with the length of the ear itself. This is done by placing the ear on a block and cutting a portion of it off with a rounding iron, which looks more like a big gouge than anything else. One sharp blow with a mallet on this instrument does the trick, and the puppy seldom has anything to say in protest. The ears so cut will bleed profusely for a time but will presently scab over. They should be dipped in carbolic oil for a few days till they are well healed, and great care should be taken at first that the patients are kept quiet and not allowed to romp about and start the blood flowing again. A period of from two to three weeks will suffice for healing perfectly. Rounding has two advantages, one is that it saves a good deal of pain to the animal in future years, when drawing thick doverts, which are infested by briars; another that it gives a more uniform appearance to the pack.

As soon as the young hounds are over the effects of this operation they should be broken to couples, and this will best be done very gradually. Let them wear couples alone for a bit till they are somewhat accustomed to the feel of them, and after that they can be coupled up together and allowed to run about the grassyard for a few minutes each day. After this let them walk out coupled together, and they will presently get accustomed to staying with the pack, when you may let them go alone with perfect safety. It is essential to get this done, as when summer exercise once begins you will have all you can do breaking them from riot, and timidity at this time will make your task doubly difficult.

The period through which your young entry are passing at this time is in some ways the most important in their existence. The change from "Farm" life to the regular kennel regime is great, the food is different, bed different, in fact everything tends to upset their health as well as their peace of mind. Watch every little change in their demeanor and the instant you detect a hound off his feed, isolate him until you find out what the trouble is. I don't want to be set down by my readers as an "Old maid", but I feel that I cannot impress too strongly the importance of the isolation of any sick

animal, until you know what the trouble is. Luckily rabies is a most uncommon disease, but there are many instances of its being brought into foxhound kennels by puppies which have come in from walk, and in whom the germs have not at first developed, and it is always well to be on the safe side.

Distemper which is not dangerous to mankind as is rabies, is almost certain to attack young hounds at this time, and as it is probably the cause of greater mortality among dogs, you will be lucky indeed if your entry is not greatly reduced by its ravages. I know of nothing more disheartening to a Master than to see the fine, promising youngsters that have come in, succumb day by day to this canine scourge. It seems to be particularly fatal to foxhounds, from what cause I cannot find out unless it is that they being pretty well inbred, are less able to withstand its attacks upon their systems. One of the worst features of distemper is the great variety of forms it takes, and the condition it leaves the animal in after the disease itself has run its course. No rules can be set down for its treatment as no two cases are apt to be alike. The symptoms are, - general languidness, a dry hacking cough, discharge at the eyes and nose, disinclination to eat and the consequent rapid emaciation of the patient. Pneumonia may develop or not, - if it does it is very apt to be fatal. I don't suppose there is a huntsman or master of hounds in existence to-day who has not tried every remedy he could hear of, I know I have; and the conclusion I have finally reached is that the best thing one can do is to wrap the patient up well in a jacket made of an old woollen blanket sewed on so that it can't be torn off. This will keep him warm, so that he can be placed where he can get lots of fresh air. Keep up the animal's strength by the administration of stimulants, a tablespoonful of whiskey and a grain of quinine, every three hours; and in desperate case about fifteen drops of nuxvomica in addition. Give it all the strengthening food it will eat, warm broths and biscuit. If it won't eat of its own accord, raw eggs should be administered by hand. The easiest way to do this is to tap the end of the egg - so that the shell is broken, open the patient's mouth and then break the egg inside, when he will swallow it readily.

Pacita, an English remedy made from a South African herb, we have always found to be very efficacious as a tonic. It can be produced from Messrs. Edwards & Co., Queen Victoria Street, London, E. C. The worst after-effect of distemper, if you pull your animal through is chorea, or St. Vitus' dance, an affection of the nerves which, if bad, brings on paralysis of some or all of the poor beast's muscles. A bad case of chorea rarely recovers. The only thing to do is to massage the affected parts constantly, and if your hound is not right in four or five months you might as well destroy it. Lately many concoctions have been put on the market some of which, notably Moore's Toxin which is in the form of a serum, are advertised as a sure cure for distemper. I have tried them all, and they all are, to my mind, worse than useless. Dr. Arthur W. Hay, of Boston, has been trying a series of very interesting experiments with a Toxin for which as yet he is unwilling to claim anything, and it may be that he has at last solved the problem--but until very definite results are obtained I should advise you to stick to treatment already outlined; the object of which is to assist nature to battle against the disease by keeping up the animal's strength.

One after-effect of distemper which sometimes makes its appearance, is epileptic fits, which make themselves manifest by frothing at the mouth, champing of the teeth, staggering gait, etc. The following pill, accompanied by rubbing along the spine, will usually produce a complete cure:

Phosphate iron	1 gr.
Sulph. quinine	1 gr.
Ex. Nux Vomica	1/8 gr.
Water	10 gr.
M.F.T. pil.	

Dose 1 pill twice a day until cured.

Distemper, it is needless to say, is very contagious, and the greatest care must be taken to wash the hands before handling other animals. It has the advantage of making the subject practically immune from further attacks. though cases of repetition have been known in rare instances.

Another disease that may trouble young hounds at this time, although it is much

less common than distemper, is "yellows", or jaundice, as it is more properly called. It is much the same in hounds as it is in human beings, except that it is more apt to be fatal. It is caused by dampness and chills and its symptoms are at first somewhat similar to distemper,—general dullness and disinclination to eat. The presence of the disease can easily be detected, however, by examining the inside of the lips, eyelids and any part devoid of hair, which assumes a yellowish tinge.

The treatment is as follows: As soon as the yellowness is noticed give the patient two tablespoonfuls of castor oil, to be followed shortly by a pill the recipe of which is given below. These should be administered each morning for three days, when a day may be skipped if the yellowness has begun to pass off; if it hasn't repeat the dose:

Calomel	10 grains
Ethiops mineral	2 "
Extract rhubarb	3 "
Castile soap	1/2 oz.
Aloes	1/2 oz.
Honey to make six pills.	

The animal should be well on the road to recovery at the end of this time.

Alternate treatment: Give castor oil as above, and then administer the following drink twice daily for three weeks and repeat if necessary.

Bromide potassium	1 dr.
Liquid Taraxicum	1 oz.
Water	6 oz.

We will suppose that you are through with distemper, and that the majority of your entry are well and strong again. About this time you will want to be getting them to look their best, for soon will come your puppy show, and there will be other masters and huntsmen to see them.

Of course, before this important event takes place you must teach them certain rudimentary but important things. First, they should be taught to draw properly, that is to answer promptly to their names when called, and to come forward out the pack instantly. This is a comparatively simple lesson and is best taught at feeding time when they can see old hounds being drawn in one at a time to the feeding room. Young hounds should be fed twice a day at first, in the morning when the pack is fed, and late in the afternoon by themselves or perhaps with a few old hounds which are thin or

have not fed well in the morning. In feeding they should always be drawn in by name, and patience at this stage of the game will go a long way in making them easily handled in the future. Be sure to make the food as palatable as may be, and watch them carefully to see that they don't starve themselves as young hounds sometimes will, when the food is not to their liking.

Second, teach them to show themselves on the flags, to gain self reliance and stand when they are called out, with heads and sterns up instead of slinking about, as some badly brought up puppies do. Do this by constant handling and playing with them; let them get to know you and love you,--though you must ^{not} relax their discipline for an instant,-- But young hounds, like children, get tired if given no chance to play and romp-- "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" --is equally applicable to hounds--Young hounds will, as a rule do very much better if given a lodging room to themselves for a while, as they will not be subject to the bullying which they invariably get until they have become well used to their surroundings and have gained confidence in their own ability to look after themselves. The time will pass only too quickly, and they will be only partly broken when they have to make their initial bow before the public, if you don't put lots of attention on the matter. In England the puppy show is an old institution, and a mighty pleasant occasion it is too; when everyone toasts the successful puppy walkers, the judges, the master, and the huntsman; but in this country it is a recent and very pleasant innovation, and one that should be adopted by all M.F.H's who have the interest of their pack and country at heart. You will remember that in the last chapter you managed to induce "Mrs. Farmer" to take a pup to walk for you, by telling her of the cup she might win at the next puppy show. She took your words to heart and she and her children have spent many a minute giving that puppy some tidbit or grooming him in the hope of ultimately being toasted as the winning "puppy walker". Now is the chance for her to realize her hopes. See that all the farmers and land owners in the neighborhood get your invitations as well as those who have this year walked pups for you, and make

the luncheon, which follows the judging, as gay and festive an affair as possible, never forgetting how much depends on your making the occasion a pleasant one for all.

But we must not lose sight of the young entry itself. Try to get as competent judges for your show as you can. The master of a neighboring pack, or his huntsman, or both of them; in fact it is customary to have two or more to pass on the quality of your youngsters. The judging should take place in the kennel yard, or in some temporary show ring staked out for the occasion, and the young entry should be brought before the judges in couples until they finally weed down to the awards.

I have always found that three prizes for dog hounds, the same for bitches and a couple of specials for best and second best couples walked by one exhibitor seemed to satisfy everyone. Of course there is a certain amount of luck in getting the best pup in the beginning, but there is a great deal of truth in the saying that "good walks make good puppies", and it surely is a much commoner thing to see a good walk build up a good hound from the runt of a litter, than to see a poor walk send in a prize winner from the best of pups. You will probably have looked over the entry yourself many times before, but watch the judging carefully now and see how others approve of your matings of the previous season.

And now comes your most difficult task,-to draft. You will have decided on your "old draft" before this, if you've not already sent them away; and you know that you have room for say ten couples of young ones. If you are lucky and have had no bad losses from distemper you'll have double that number to choose from; but remember that you know nothing of their working qualities as yet, and that you must only make your first draft now and in it you should send away such hounds as are not your sort, in looks or size, or symmetry. Bad colored ones you'll not have if you care anything about color and have followed my advice in the proceeding chapter, but you must ruthlessly send away all the crooked and unsymmetrical ones; for if you keep them "just to see how they work" they may turn out excellent and you may be tempted to breed from them, and if you do this, your resolution to have a good looking as well

as a good working pack will go for naught. I know that in saying this I am laying myself open to very severe criticism from many hunting men in America, whose motto is and always has been "Handsome is as handsome does". A most excellent motto I'll admit, and if you want to acquire a pack of uneven hounds, a very good one. It will take a great deal longer to breed a good looking pack that works well, than a bad looking pack that works well, but if you do as I advise, I think you'll be glad you waited the extra years and didn't jump at the first plan.

Once you have decided on your draft dispose of it as quickly as you can. There is usually a demand for good foxhounds, particularly if your pack has made a name for itself and you'll have little difficulty in getting rid of them. Make a draft price, and then stick to it, whether the draft be good, bad or indifferent, and in a few years you'll find you will have a demand for twice what you can supply from other Masters who, less lucky than you, will need to call on outside kennels to keep up their packs.

And now at last we get down to serious business. We'll pass quickly over the early months, which should find hounds and horses at exercise by five o'clock each morning, before it gets too hot. Dull, monotonous work it is, but important none the less in the education of your youngsters, for it is during this time that they must be taught the meaning of: "Ware hare," "Ware wing," "Ware haunch," "Ware stranger," "Ware cur dog," and "Ware horse," which, translated into layman's English means "Keep away from all fur bearing animals other than foxes." "Keep away from all dogs other than hounds," "Keep away from all hens, ducks, and other alluring fowl," "Keep away from all deer, sheep, etc.," "Keep away from strangers," "Keep away from all dogs other than hounds," be they curs of low degree or \$10000- prize show dogs whose owners indignantly deny the term "cur dog," and finally "Keep out from under a horse's feet."

It is a mistaken kindness not to chastise hounds thoroughly for wrong doing when they are young; you would only have to repeat the operation a few weeks later and at a time when perhaps you had a field out, while if done at morning exercise you will only have the hunt servants for an audience. But give them a chance, try to stop them with your voice first, and then if they will pay no attention to that they must get such a lesson that they will not soon forget it. No one likes to see children spanked, but I have no doubt that it is good for them. Watch carefully and when you find a hound that refuses to hearken to your remonstrance, give him the opportunity of committing the offence again and catch him red-handed, so that he will understand for what he is being chastised. You have noticed "Falstaff" on several occasions during the day in full cry after a hare, and though you were close to him he was deaf to your appeal and continued in his misconduct. On your way back to kennels you go through a field where you know a hare to be lying, and there sure enough she is, getting up from her form right under the noses of the pack. Not one, however, takes any notice except Falstaff and he dashes off in pursuit, but your whips are ready in attendance on either hand and speedily cut off the culprit. The next thing to do is to couple him up to a rail and give him a sound flogging to the tune of "ware hare".

This is but one example of the method of breaking young hounds from all kinds of riot, and although it sounds a bit stringent, it is, I am convinced, the best in the end. At the risk of repeating myself, however, I must impress on you again never allow a hound to be flogged unless it has refused to listen to your voice and unless it understands clearly what he is being flogged for. See to as many of these details as you can,--there is nothing like personal attention to accomplish results, and although your servants may have the best intentions in the world they will not give matters as much intelligent thought as "The Master".

Begin your cubbing early in the year, bearing in mind that it is the early schooling of your young hounds, and that much of their future usefulness depends on the way they are handled at this time. As soon as the crops are sufficiently in to warrant hunting without damage to the farmer, get at it. Early to bed these evenings, for you must be up to dress "by yellow candle light" so that you may have your hounds at the covert-side by daylight.

I am taking it for granted that you have made up your mind to hunt your hounds yourself, and in making the following remarks I am writing for the novice and not for men who have been at the game longer than I have. There is no one who has hunted hounds himself, and hardly anyone who has followed them, who has not ideas of his own on the subject, and hunting hounds is an art on which the last word will never be said:- There is one way to learn to hunt hounds which in my opinion far surpasses any other, and that is to watch a professional at work, and a man watching another can often detect mistakes that are not apparent to the huntsman himself. I know that in my own case I owe most of what I know to the knowledge of two men, both of them top-notchers in their profession. For three years I watched and asked questions and formed my own ideas of how hounds should be handled, and then I took them myself. Even then I took my kennel huntsman out with me, and made him criticize my every move. To the novice who has such a school-master at hand I can only say: "Follow his advice until such time as you have gained self confidence, and then use your own judgment. In other words learn the principles and then apply them as you think best.

But to go back to cub hunting --Take all your young entry out the first day, dogs and bitches; and go first to a covert where you are certain to find, as nothing is more discouraging to young hounds than to work a covert where there is nothing - they can't tell what is wanted of them. It is a very difficult matter to describe the handling of young hounds in the field, and I think perhaps the best thing I can do is to take a day's hunting, discussing the various events and occurrences in the order in which they arise.

Let us suppose then that you start from your kennels some August morning, arriving at covert-side as early as the light permits. You will have say thirty-odd couples, of which one-third will be green untried youngsters, so you will have to rely to a great degree on your steady old hounds. Be very quiet, the young ones will be only too easily excited. Post your men on the outside in places where you think a fox is likely to break covert and then put your hounds in quietly.- Keep your eye on the young ones, lest they go on the line of riot, but encourage them to work with your voice. Some of them will get right to work, but ~~more~~ will stand around with their heads in the air not knowing what to do, or trot quietly behind your horse. Don't be discouraged at this, and above all never rate young hounds into covert. Cheer them in if you can, but if they won't go leave them alone, they'll learn in time. Go on drawing steadily, and ^{if} you've done as I told you and picked a good covert, you'll presently be rewarded by seeing hounds begin to fling themselves about excitedly. Cheer them on and before many minutes have passed some hound will make a dash at a clump of thick cover, and an instant later there'll be a single note followed by another, and another, till the whole pack is in full cry. Old hounds will hark in quickly, and some of the young ones will join in, partly from excitement, while some others perhaps will get their noses down and hunt. Now is the time for you to use your voice. Cheer your young hounds on. "Have at him puppies, for'd, for'd, for'd on," and it may be that soon you'll hear a halloa from one of your men on the outside.

Now in England the rule during cub hunting, except in woodland countries, is to keep the cubs in the covert and let the old foxes go away, but here in America our coverts are so big that if we can force a cub outside, we're only too glad. Hounds are outside now but by the time you get to the halloa yourself, your whipper-in tells you they are in again. As you wait there on the edge you can hear them running their fox hard toward the other end of the covert till presently they turn and come towards you again. Keep still now- Yes there he is, a big strong cub going gaily along. Hounds are running on at a good rate and it will only get their heads up, sit quiet, and watch them as they come streaming out.

Scent is none too good on the outside to-day and they over run the line a bit; Mr. Cub had turned sharp back. The cry stops, and the pack cast themselves rapidly. Leave them alone- else they'll lose their independence and look to you too much for help.

See that young bitch a bit behind is coming out. She has the line and is feathering to it, but she does not quite dare to throw her tongue. You know its right, so cheer her, "For'ard, for'ard good Solitude." "Hark to Solitude, for'ard, for'ard," as she speaks to it, and in an instant they are off again with your young bitch at the head. She's a made hound from this day on. Down the covert they run again and as they get to the further end you hear your man on the outside "Tally-ho gone away." Now gallop to it as hard as you can, blowing your tail hounds up and cheering them on to your man. "Hoick-holler, hoick-holler," when you get there the leading hounds will be just settling down and if the scent is good enough they'll go away with a burst of music. Ride close to them, cheering them on with voice and horn. Across three fields you gallop and then hounds dash straight into another little wood. The music keeps on for a minute or two stopping suddenly just inside. Now ride in and see what you can find. Presently you see an old hound with dirt on his muzzle. To ground, as sure as death.

So off your horse you get and into the covert on foot guided perhaps by a deep note from some old hound. Sure enough, after you have searched for a few minutes through the thick covert you come up on the earth with the old hounds digging frantically at it, while some of the youngsters stand around looking on in an interested manner. Out with your horn then and cheer them into it. "Loo wind him, wind him in there puppies" till the whole pack are baying frantically at it. Up comes your runner in with the terrier, while you send your whippers-in after tools, for you must have him out and blood the puppies if you dig all day. After perhaps an hour's ^{hard} work guided by the baying of the terrier you get up to him. Let the hounds pull him out themselves, it will do them all the good in the world, and after they have killed him cut off the brush, mask and pads, and then hold him up to the pack and "whoop whoop" for all you're worth. Throw him to them and see to it that the young ones get a bit

It is your first fox and at that time you wouldn't change places with the President.

Don't draw again, go home after that, and be sure that if you've had such a day as I've described, you are very lucky.

Of course all your days won't be like the one described above, some will be better and some worse, but even if you have a run of bad days and do little or nothing don't get discouraged, for you may be sure that hounds can detect symptoms of disgust in a huntsman even before he is aware of it himself. These first six weeks of cubbing will do more to make or mar your young entry than anything during the season; and you should stop at no trouble to bring them to a successful result. You will do well to watch the work of the young hounds at this time with the greatest care, and mark for drafting those which show signs of dwelling, babbling or inability to gallop on. Don't be too hasty in condemning the ones which show no inclination to work; many a good hound never leaves the huntsman's horse for the first few months.

In going to meets jog at a very moderate pace; in the very warm weather walking is fast enough, while the usual rule is six miles an hour or at the outside seven. Be sure to give your hounds plenty of room on the road. There are some whippers-in who like to keep the hounds all jammed up together while on the road, but it is a good deal better to keep your first whipper-in 40 yards ahead of you, and the second whipper-in 50 yards behind., except when passing vehicles or anything of that nature.

Proceed in a leisurely manner then, and spend the time in looking over your hounds as you ride, or planning out the matings for the coming year as you note the results of the past. Be in time at your meets, however, and move off promptly after the five or ten minutes law, which you give to late comers, has passed. If you're late in moving off one day your Field will be justified in finding fault if they find you gone when they arrive a few minutes late themselves, on some future occasion. And in speaking of your field let me say here that you mustn't consider them at all during the cubbing season. That period belongs to the pack, and the fact that some of those who are out

are keen for a gallop at that time, is no excuse for not drawing all your coverts the good and the bad in turn. Woodland hunting is never as amusing to the average foxhunter as a good gallop in the open, though to the keen lover of hound-work a good day in the woodlands is as delightful, as it is good for the hounds themselves. Remember that your object is to kill as many cubs as you can, to scatter the litters over your country as much as possible, and that that is the first and foremost consideration.

CHAPTER VII.

The Master:-

"And the laborer at work, and the lord in his hall
Have a jest or a smile when they hear of the sport
In ale or in claret he's toasted by all
For they never expect to see more of the sort
And long may it be ere he's forced to retire
For we breed very few like the galloping Squire."

Whyte-Melville.

CHAPTER VII.

The Master.

Mr. J. Otho Paget has said in his admirable book on hunting that no man should become Master of a pack of hounds unless he is very keen about the sport, or otherwise he is liable not to devote enough time and attention to his hounds, a thing he must do in order to make matters go smoothly. He goes on to say that men very often accept the office because they are rich and because they wish to add to their social status. Now this statement which is doubtless true of England is much less so in this country, as the title of M. F. H. means far less here in the social world, than over the water where hunting is of vastly greater importance. Here in America many of the packs are private ones, the expense of which is borne solely by the Master who often hunts his own hounds, a contingency which of course more than repays the real lover of hunting for all his trouble and expense. So I think that it can be practically considered that any man who accepts a mastership in this country is keen and ready to devote the necessary time to it.

Taking this then for granted, let us see what other qualifications a man must have to make a good master. I say "a good master," because I believe that a perfect Master like a perfect man is an utter impossibility. Two qualities, however, he must possess if he has to make his mark as an M.F.H. - firmness and tact. One is an essential to his ultimate success as the other. In addition to these two qualities if he has that which I can only describe as "charm," he will succeed in many cases where others would fail. Firmness he must have, his commands must be obeyed and obeyed instantly, but if he has to bluster and curse his field in order to accomplish his desired end, he might as well resign at once. He should endeavour always to keep his temper with his field, to govern them by appealing to their sense of sportsmanship, rather than by their fear of a verbal tongue lashing.

I well remember a Master most of whose field consisted one day of a lot of inexperienced but very keen boys. They kept talking, laughing and shouting to one another on pure exuberance of spirits not meaning any harm in any way. The Master, who had repeatedly asked them to keep still finally stopped his own horse, turned to them and said, "If you gentlemen persist in talking so loud and making so much noise there is not the slightest use in trying to go on. I'll tell you what I'll do, I'll tell the huntsman to stop drawing till you get through." The young men who had'nt realized the situation at all stopped at once, hounds went on drawing and presently found a good fox and had their run. I was one of the "boys" so I remember it well. How much better and wiser this was than if the M.F.H. had "flown off the handle" and sworn at them, in which case they'd probably have gone home feeling that they had been badly treated.

The position of M.F. H. is really a pretty thankless one, unless of course one hunts one's own hounds. The Master is sure to get abused at times by everybody and for every conceivable kind of fault. If foxes kill a man's fancy poultry, or the game is in his pet coverts, the Master gets the blame. If hounds move off promptly from a meet, and Mr. Smith who comes a quarter of an hour late misses them, Mr. Smith blames the Master, although if he happens to be on time, and Mr. Brown is waited for, he would be loud in his expressions of disgust at the M. F. H. for not moving off promptly. So it goes, and if a man is not possessed of the patience of Job or an extra thick skin, he will suffer a good deal from their undeserved criticisms. But if a man rules impartially and fairly, his field will soon come to realize it and the best of them will try to help him, as they can in many little ways.

One thing a Master must do to keep the respect of his field; he must ride hard and straight. He can't expect a hard riding lot of men to listen to his exhortations to "come back" if he's behind them, he should be in front where he can tell them to "keep back". To quote Whyte-Melville, his field should regard him as:

"A man we all swear by, a friend of our own,

With the hounds running hardest, he's safest to go,

And he's always in front, and he's often alone

A rider unequalled-- a sportsman complete

A run-one to follow, a bad one to beat."

Major W. Austin Wadsworth, for more than thirty years Master of his own hounds, sometimes known as the "Genesee Valley," sums up the relation between the master and his field in the following words:

"The M. F. H. is a great and mystic personage, to be lowly, meekly and reverently looked up to, helped, considered, and given the right of way at all times. His ways are not as other mens ways, and his language is not to be judged by their standard. All that can be asked of him is that he furnish good sport as a rule, and so long as he does that, he is amenable to no criticism, subject to now law, and fettered by no conventionality while in the field. He is supposed by courtesy to know more about his own hounds than outsiders, and all halloaing, calling and attempts at hunting them by others are not only bad manners, but are apt to spoil sport. As a general rule he can enjoy your conversation and society more when not in the field with the hounds, riders, foxes, and damages on his mind.

N. B. The proffer of a flask in not conversation within the meaning of the above."

If the members of the fields throughout the country followed the above rules with any degree of exactness, many an M. F. H. would have an easier time of it; but in justice to many members of the fields on this side of the water, I must say that they don't realize and in many cases don't even know, what a lot of bother they are making. I think if all the Masters of America were to follow Major Wadsworth's example, and circulate a written or printed set of rules among their subscribers, they would make it pleasanter for themselves, and save a lot of profanity.

I know it is a easy thing to advise an M. F. H. to keep his temper, and refrain from rough language; but I nevertheless feel somewhat less diffident about it than I should be if I had not been an M.F.H. myself for ten years and experienced the difficulties of the situation during that time. There are times when a minister would swear, and swear badly, and would probably be justified in so doing. But remember one thing: men don't come out hunting to get sworn at, but for the pleasure of the days sport, and there are some who if they get roundly cursed at, will go home with their enjoyment for the day gone. Remember too, that it is the unwritten law of the hunting field that a man must swallow and language addressed to him by the Master, and answer never a word. A great rule, but let the M. F. H. remember that abusing a member of the fields is somewhat akin to abusing a servant who cannot answer back, and let him act accordingly and think an instant before he makes a remark to which his victim cannot well reply.

But when all is said and done an M. F. H's word is law in the Field and it must be obeyed or the offending party must take himself home. The only other alternative it to take hounds back to the kennels, and this is such a serious step that the provocation should be very great before it is done. If any member of the field so far forgets himself, as to insult the Master the simplest and best thing to do, is to pay no attention whatever at the time, and then to report the matter at once to some prominent member of the hunt, demanding an immediate apology. The Hunt must always support an M. F. H. in these matters if they ever do come to such a head, for one must remember that the M. F. H. is King, and a King can do no wrong. If the Hunt committee doesn't like his ways well and good, then let them ask him to resign, but don't let them fail to back him up when he is in power.

Unfortunately for the sport, but fortunately for the M.F.H. the Fields in this country are very much smaller than in England. I have never seen over seventy-five out, and even this was at the opening meet of the English-American hound match in 1905. Fifty may safely be put as an outside limit while twenty to thirty is nearer the average. These small fields are of course very much easier to handle, particularly

when one realizes that many of them are not out to go hard, although to a young M.F.H. even twenty-five will seem like an army.

But the greatest test of a man's ability to act as Master is his power to get on well with the landowners. Don't forget that they are all freeholders, that you and your Field are there on sufferance only, and that they have it in their power to spoil sport absolutely by ordering you off their land. There will be many of them who will join in your sport, either "in spirit or by coming out themselves, and with them you must always be "hail fellow well met," and make them feel that they are not only welcome, but wanted in the fields. But again there will be others who won't understand what you want on their land, why the roads aren't equally good, and in fact will see no reason why a lot of men in scarlet coats should go galloping over their walls and fences, knocking them down and generally making work for some one.

With these men you must reason quietly, explaining what you want to do and above all that you are ready and willing to repair all damages and pay all reasonable damage bills. Do not let them think for an instant that his ultimate decision whether for or against you will be questioned. If you can't persuade him to let you come on his land, don't try to go there when he is away—wait patiently and the chances are that, in the time, when he finds that all his neighbors are glad to have hounds on their property, he'll relent and send you word to come when you like.

There is another kind of landowner and one which, for many reasons, is the most difficult to cope with, because his very attitude disarms you. I am speaking of the old-fashioned New England foxhunter who goes out early with his slow-working old hounds, and when they have finally picked up a line goes off and ensconces himself on some comfortable stone near where he thinks the fox will pass, ready with his gun to shoot as he crosses the lane or open near his "stand."

Now this man has always hunted foxes this way, his father did before him and he can't understand why he shouldn't continue to do so. It's his idea of sport, it may not be yours or mine, but you must remember that he is as much entitled to his fun as you are to yours. I well remember the anger of one of my English Hunt servants, who had recently come to this country, when a man told me with great glee one day, that he had shot a 12 lb. fox. I was mad myself, as mad, or madder than he, and yet there was nothing to do, but smile and even appear interested. In this particular instance the man with the gun happened to be large land owner, and if I had expressed myself as I felt like doing, he would in all probability have told me to keep off his land in the future. In the southern states this practice of shooting foxes is not as prevalent as in New England, and as a fox shooter is regarded in somewhat the same light as across the water, there is very little bother on this score.

The question of damages to poultry is, of course, one that the M. F. H. will have to cope with and one that must be handled with the greatest care. Many claims will be made which are either intentionally fraudulent with the object of bleeding the Hunt, or else absolutely unreasonable, and yet it is no easy thing to settle them, for if no attention is paid to the claimant he may make matters very disagreeable by ordering hounds off his land for good, or by destroying such litters of foxes as may be in his coverts.

The American farmer is a very proud individual, and if he is not dealt with in the proper way a most difficult man to handle. A tactless M. F. H. may pretty well ruin a country by a few months of inconsiderate treatment of its landowners, where a tactful and painstaking man would have succeeded. It is a very simple thing to stop and talk to a farmer as one rides past his farm, to ask if his wife is well, etc., etc., and yet it does more good than many a five dollar bill sent by a servant. If a farmer has been damaged by some member of the Hunt's breaking rails, or knocking down his walls, or by foxes, and you hear of it go over to him yourself, don't send a servant, and you will find him a comparatively easy man to handle. The same is true of the men and their

wives, who act as puppy walkers. Take an interest in their welfare, etc., and you'll soon find that they appreciate it, and take an equal interest in yours. Always try to buy as much from the country as you can, hay, grain, straw etc., all of these products of the men on whose good will your sport depends should be purchased from them, even if the cost is somewhat greater.

Finally I come to the relation a Master must have with his hunt servants. I am supposing in this instance that you do not hunt your own hounds and that you have a professional huntsman. Let him see that you are master, that you take an interest in all that goes on in the kennels and field, and appreciate good work while you are ever ready to criticise and condemn mis-management. But do not leave too much to the huntsman, I have seen too many establishments where the hounds practically belonged to the huntsman, and the horses to the stud groom; while the M. F. H. was nothing but a figurehead, although he himself didn't realize it. Remember that although it is the huntsman's business to keep breeding records and to give you such assistance as he can in the matter of mating, it is nevertheless on your shoulders that the burden of decision rests, and that if you know nothing of such matters your pack will never be as good as it might be. Study then what other men have done in hound-breeding in the past, and familiarize yourself with the great blood lines and what they stand for. I always keep careful breeding records of each year's matings, etc. and let my huntsman do the same. On the other hand, remember one thing, and that is,, that it is unfair to your huntsman to hamper him in the field with suggestions and orders, and then to blame him in the field with suggestions and orders, and then to blame if he fails to kill a fox. If he is hunting the hounds tell him where to draw and then let him alone. If he makes what you deem a mistake make mental note of it, and discuss it later after the day is over, but not then and there in the field. That isn't fair.

But before I close this chapter let me add my little word of Ratcliffe and
Scrutator, and advise you to take up the hunting of your hounds yourself. If you've time
and health and energy you'll never regret it. I know that in my own case diffidence
kept me from taking my hounds as soon as I'd have liked to. I didn't feel that I could
do them justice, but once I'd taken the step and gained a certain amount of confidence
in my own ability nothing would have induced me to give up hunting them, and to-day
I know of no greater pleasure than to handle a fox after a hard run, in which all my skill
and the ability of my hounds is pitted against that natural craftiness which the beast
possesses, and I know of no more hearty welcome than I always receive from my hounds, when
I meet them each hunting day at covert-side.

CHAPTER VIII.

The Huntsman.

"An easterly wind and a lowering day
A straight necked fox with a scent breast high;
I pray for no more, unless a good start
At the tail of my hounds, on the horse of my heart,"

"Hollows from the Hills."

THE HUNTSMAN

Huntsmen are divided into three classes, which I shall speak of in the order about to be named. First we have the amateur huntsman, the man who is Master of a country and whose love of the sport is such, that he prefers to hunt his hounds himself rather than employ a professional. The second kind of huntsman is the professional, who at his best is often a very high class of man, who would have done well in any walk of life he had chosen to follow. Such men usually serve a long apprenticeship at the sport, beginning at the bottom of the ladder and working gradually up through the successive grades until at last they reach the goal of their ambition. The third division comprises those huntsman who are known as kennel-huntsman, usually men who have retired from active field service, but who take off the shoulders of Master-Huntsmen their duties in the kennel, which would require more of their time than they are enabled to give; although sometimes we find younger men serving in this position combining the duties of a huntsman in the kennels with those of a first whipper-in the field.

Before going into details regarding the qualifications which a huntsman must acquire, I want to say a word to the young man who has just taken a pack and who is perhaps debating in his own mind whether or not to carry the horn himself. There are not a great many men in this country who can spare the time which is required for the successful hunting of hounds, but if a man can give the time; if his heart is in the sport, my advice to him is not to hesitate an instant, on the score of lack of experience or anything else. With a good teacher he will learn quickly, his mistakes will become less frequent and before he himself realizes it the handling of hounds will become second nature to him and a source of great enjoyment.

There is no reason why any man with a good education and the average allotment of brains should not in time become a first class huntsman, without devoting an unreasonable amount of time to it. The great Assheton Smith seldom fed his own hounds

and his example is followed by many of the foremost amateur huntsman on both sides of the water to-day, proof enough, I think that it is not essential to do so. Hounds will always go from the man who feeds them to the man who shows them sport, and although I think it is advisable for a gentleman-huntsman to feed from time to time, there is no necessity, if he has a good kennel-huntsman, for him to be with hounds at all times.

The second class with which we have to deal is the professional, the man who perhaps began his career in the hunting field as second horseman and who, serving through the various grades of 2nd and 1st whipper-in, has at length succeeded to the post of huntsman. To rise to the top rank a man must possess a great many qualities which are as essential to the amateur as to the professional, and I shall therefore take them up collectively. First and foremost he must be a good horseman, for if a huntsman isn't with his hounds, or at least in a position to see what they are doing, he is of little use. It is said of T. Assheton Smith, one of the best hunters who ever lived, that nothing stopped him in his casts, and we all know many foxes are lost by an ugly fence being in the way at this critical time in a day's hunting. In this country of large thick coverts and wire, there are times when no man can stay with hounds, but except for these two obstacles nothing should stop a huntsman from being "Up". Youth is a valuable thing and one which we cannot all possess, though I question if many men aspire to be huntsman after they have passed the age of forty. Most men it is said begin to lose some of their nerve when they have passed that age, and a huntsman without nerve is never first class. Some men, however, are as good over a country when they are well past fifty as many a younger one, and I can to-day think of one man who at fifty-one rode as brilliantly as men twenty years his junior.

Patience and perseverance are two very essential qualities, and they seem to me to go hand in hand and might be classed together under the term keenness. Certainly no one will persevere unless he is really keen, nor will he be patient under the many

difficulties that beset a huntsman. Many a day have I seen end in a good run, that looked at the beginning as unpromising as possible, and if the huntsman hadn't been keen enough to keep at it, the field would never have enjoyed it. Never give up a fox "till he has gone to ground," or the scent is so bad that hounds can do nothing with it. Don't consider your Field--many a time all they want is a gallop, and it doesn't make the slightest difference to them if you ruin your hounds by taking them off the line to draw again, when they can go on with it. Of course I'm not going to advocate your going on at a snail's pace all day, but if you've had a sharp burst at some time in the run, enough to tire your fox, keep at it as long as there is scent, and the light lasts. Don't forget that a tired fox leaves less scent, and don't get discouraged if hounds don't run top pace all the time till they kill.

Quietness is of the utmost importance--as no animals are quicker to appreciate changes in one's manner than foxhounds, and if a huntsman is steady and quiet so will his hounds be, while if on the other hand he gets excited and loses his head, he may be sure his hounds will do the same. To quote a sentence from Beckford which I find on my hunting calendar for to-day as I write this: "Hounds are always made enough when they find their fox; if the men also are mad they make a mad work of it indeed." The same things apply to temper and if a man can't keep his temper with his hounds he'd better try some other walk in life.

With the Field it is different, and a man may be often forgiven for losing his temper with an inconsiderate member of the Field. A professional huntsman always has the M. F. H. to rely on, to keep the Field in order, but when a man is acting as his own huntsman, he has the double responsibility of having the Field as well as the hounds on his mind.

Of the qualifications which it is equally necessary for both gentleman and professional huntsman to possess, I think perhaps that the most essential is a quality which is more easily described than called by any definite name; I mean the sympathetic

understanding some men have with animals, as exemplified in the trainers of wild beasts. Whether it is the quality of the voice or what, I am unable to say, but those men who are lucky enough to be born with it, no one can acquire it, are sure to be beloved by their hounds.

The power of retaining in one's mind the occurrences of the day to be used for future reference is a very valuable one, and if coupled with the power of observation it is one of a huntsman's greatest assets. To illustrate this--we will say for example that on the twentieth of October, you hunted a certain fox out of a certain covert, and that after a good hunt with him he eventually went to ground. Some weeks later, say the tenth of November, your hounds find the same fox, and hustle him away out of covert. You go on at top pace for maybe a mile, and then there comes a check, caused, we'll say, by the fox's having run through a flock of sheep. Now what will you do? Think hard a minute - same fox, - same country, - and his point was ? --- Right - take hold of your hounds, gallop them to where that fox went the time before, and ten to one you'll hit it off. If you don't, then come back and cast. If you do, perhaps there'll be no more checks and you'll kill your fox, because you observed what he did the first time and remembered.

Besides the qualifications which I have already mentioned, there are several of very great importance and I shall mention them as they occur to me. One of them is a thorough knowledge of woodcraft, which will of course include a knowledge of the habits of the fox. If a man can put himself mentally in the place of the animal he is hunting, and then try to think what he would do in a similar position, he is much more likely to succeed in his undertaking, than if he just went at it blindly. Many an earth-stopper could teach the huntsman things he should know, and it is as much of a huntsman's business to learn the ways of foxes, as it is to learn the ways of hounds. Then there is the power of remembering country which some huntsmen seem to possess to a remarkable degree. I have seen men get through coverts or swamps to their hounds in a way no one

else could. If they hunted in a country once they seemed to know every road, and ride, and gate, in it; and if they'd never been in a country before, they seemed to know by instinct. I suppose this quality could be acquired in time by anyone whose mode of observation was keen and who had a good memory on which to photograph the picture after the eye had seen it.

What Peter Beckford wrote of Huntsman more than one hundred years ago, is for the most part applicable to-day, and so I feel I cannot go far wrong in quoting him verbatim: "He should be young, strong, and active, bold and entertaining; fond of the diversion and indefatigable in the pursuit of it; he should be sensible and good tempered; he ought also to be sober; he should be exact, civil and cleanly; he should be a good horseman and a good groom; his voice should be strong and clear, and he should have an eye so quick, as to perceive which of his hounds carries the scent, when all are running, should have so excellent an ear as to distinguish the foremost hounds, when he does not see them. He should be quiet, patient and without conceit. Such are the excellencies which constitute a good huntsman, he should not, however, be too fond of displaying them, till necessity calls them forth. He should let his hounds alone when they can hunt, and he should have genius to assist them when they cannot."

Beckford was about right, and a man to become brilliant at the "noble science," must either possess or acquire most of the attributes which he specifies. Nowadays few huntsmen have anything to do with their horses, so that the quality of being a good groom is unnecessary, though as most huntsmen begin their careers in the stables, they usually have gained a pretty thorough schooling in the duties of a groom before they get into the kennels.

Several of Beckford's qualifications I have not spoken of because they apply rather more particularly to the professional huntsmen. These are the attributes of exactness, cleanliness, and sobriety-----He must be exact and cleanly, for if he is not the first, he will be sure to make mistakes in the keeping of breeding records,

and if he lacks the second attribute himself, how can he be depended on to keep his hounds in the spotless condition which is absolutely essential to their well-being? He must be sober, for a man who is not can never keep his men so, nor can he, unless in full possession of his faculties, do justice to his hounds in the field and in the kennels. He must, moreover, be an indefatigable worker, for no man who is afraid of work has any business in hunt service; and there'll be many a night that he'll have to sit up with sick hounds after a long hard day in the saddle.

I find that I have omitted from my list of attributes one which a huntsman ought to acquire if he ever hopes to reach the top rung in the ladder of his perfection, I refer to a thorough knowledge of hound breeding, the best lines of blood and their various qualities; I have already stated that this is a thing which every Master ought to know, and what I said is equally true of every huntsman, except that no man should aspire to the post of huntsman without first having studied this part of the game thoroughly.

A thorough knowledge of kennel management and ailments are of course necessary in the professional, most of whom are as good or better than the average "vet", where diseases of the hound are concerned. Such knowledge is of the utmost importance to the amateur also, who will be at a disadvantage if he doesn't know how to tell his men to do a thing; although it is not essential, as I have already said, that he should spend all of his time in the kennels, if he has a good kennel huntsman.

Tom Firr, late huntsman to Quorn, was perhaps the most brilliant of all when it came to field work although he lacked the fame of his contemporary Frank Gillard as a hound-breeder. Mr. J. Otto Paget, himself a member of the Quorn field, says of him: "Future ages may produce huntsmen as good as Tom Firr, but we of his generation can never expect to see his equal. I consider he was as near perfection as it is possible to find anything in this world. He possessed all these qualities which the ideal huntsmen should possess. Hands, nerve and seat made him a finished horseman.

He was as quick as lightening and yet never in a hurry. He had the patience to let hounds hunt out a cold scent and knew the exact moment when to press them on a beaten fox. His voice and hound language were perfect, and his cheer acted like a stimulant on the pack at the end of a hard day.

Firr was a man who would probably have reached the top of the ladder in any other walk of life, for he had more brain power than is allotted to the average man. His mind grasped a situation at once, and action followed thought with the rapidity of lightening. He had a nerveless intuition of the way a fox had gone, and often recovered the line by a bold cast when everyone thought it hopeless. He trusted his hounds and was seldom disappointed. Such was the greatest huntsman of the Century."

High praise indeed, and yet Mr. Paget's opinion is borne out by everyone who ever hunted with Firr, and by the Masters under whom he served, among them the late Col. J. Anstruther Thompson, the best amateur huntsman of modern times. I have given this sketch of Firr, because I think that to men in this country it will be of great interest. Certainly it gives a fair idea of what a professional should be. You will perhaps note that Mr. Paget speaks of Firr's being "quick". The quality of quickness is one which all huntsmen should acquire and is perhaps best described as the ability to see what is needed at critical moments, and act promptly. Two examples will illustrate what I mean. The first of these is the following. A gentleman huntsman ran the line of a fox into a covert and then lost; and having held his hounds round on the far side without avail, he concluded the fox must have gone to ground. Accordingly he blew his hounds out of covert preparatory to drawing again. Just as he was about to move off, he suddenly put his horn to his lips and catching hold of his pack galloped round the covert, and laying them on the line in an instant, went on and killed his fox. A friend, to whom the performance seemed little short of marvelous, asked him how he knew the line was there when his hounds had failed to pick it up when cast there some minutes earlier. "I had just counted my hounds," said the huntsman, "and found them all, when I heard some crows

making a noise in the covert opposite me. I knew there was no hound there, so I guessed it was the fox and as I galloped back I caught sight of him stealing away."

Quick huntsmen make quick hounds, and if a pack are allowed to potter along at a snail's pace when they can be helped, the usefulness of a huntsman ceases to exist. But as this isn't the chapter on the art itself, I shall go on to describe the third class of Huntsman mentioned in the beginning of the chapter; the man who has been acting huntsman, but who has retired from active service in the field, because of age or physical incapacity. A good man of this description is absolutely invaluable to any young man just starting, or for that matter, to any man who hunts his own hounds. It is, as I have said elsewhere, a well-known fact that hounds will always leave the man who feeds them to go to the man who shows them sport; but it is very essential that the feeder in these cases be a man of experience and judgment. The duties of such a man have already been enumerated in my chapter on kennel management, and I shall now only add that he should be constantly on the qui vive to detect any little illness which the huntsman, if he is not in the kennels all the time, might fail to observe. He should have sufficient knowledge to relieve the amateur huntsman of any duties which he may not have the time to undertake. If he can hunt hounds in the field, in case the Master is forced through illness or otherwise to be away -- so much the better, although I do not consider this as an essential. If, however, you can so arrange it, it is a good plan to let your kennel huntsman accompany you from time to time into the Field in order that he may see how his charges run, and gain insight into their feeding.

I think that the system of employing a younger man who combines the duties of kennel huntsman and first whipper-in is one that should not be resorted to except from motives of economy. It is, I think, a mistake to ask one man to act in both capacities, as the duties of the two positions seem to me so dissimilar that their proper fulfilment requires the employment of two men. I am aware that this theory of mine is in direct opposition to the practice of a good many establishments, but it seems to me rather difficult to expect hounds to go from a man at one period of the day, (which they should

do from a whipper-in) and to come to him at another (when he is acting as huntsman in the kennel).

But whether a huntsman be amateur or professional, young or old, American or English, if he possesses courage and perseverance, and a love of the sport, he is bound to attain at least some measure of success in the pursuit of it.

CHAPTER IX.

THE WHIPPER-IN.

"Promoted at length, Dick's adventures began:-

A stripling on foot, but when mounted a man;

Capped, booted, and spurred, his young soul was on fire

The day he was dubbed Second Whip to the Squire.

See how Dick like a dart shoots ahead of the pack !

How he stops, turns and twists, rates and rattles them back !

The laggard exciting, controlling the rash;

He can comb down a hair with the point of his lash.

A whip is Dick's sceptre, a saddle Dick's throne,

And the horse is the kingdom he rules as his own;

While grasping ambition encircles the earth,

The dominions of Dick are enclosed in a girth."

Egerton Warburton.

CHAPTER LX

THE WHIPPER-IN.

Nowadays a good many people speak of those invaluable adjutants to a huntsman as first and second "whips", and I suppose usage has almost authorized the use of the expression, but as the late Duke of Beaufort said, "A whip is a thing you hold in your hand," and the full title is and always has been "whipper-in".

All writers on foxhunting ancient and modern agree that a first-class whipper-in is an essential to the killing of a fox as a good huntsman. In this country, where the coverts are large and full of "riot", it is absolutely necessary to have good whippers-in in order to keep hounds steady and keep them together. Brains are as essential in a whipper-in as in a huntsman, and there are many ways in which the former may make himself useful if he has the genius to do so. For instance, if hounds are running toward any earth that may chance to be open, he may get forward to it in time to prevent the fox's getting the ground, he may get to points and mark a sinking fox; and he has it frequently in his power to assist the hounds, without doing them any hurt, provided he may have the sense to distinguish where he may be chiefly wanted. Besides, the most essential part of fox-hunting, the making and keeping the pack steady, depends entirely on him.

We are told that the first whipper-in should be considered as a second huntsman, and that to be perfect he should not be less capable of hunting the hounds than the huntsman himself, in case the latter should be disabled. To recapitulate what I have already said, if your whipper-in be bold and active, be a good and careful horseman; have a good ear and a clear voice; if he be a very Mungo, here, there and everywhere, having at the same time judgment to distinguish where he may be of most use; if joined to these he be above the foolish conceit of killing a fox, without the huntsman; but, on the contrary, be disposed to assist him as he can, he is then a perfect whipper-in.

Much of the above I have quoted from Beckford, as most of what he wrote a hundred years ago is applicable to-day - but there are two other attributes which a whipper-in must possess in order to be really first-class. He should be fond of work and habitually sober. This last qualification leads me to speak of what is perhaps the greatest weakness in the average hunt servant. Any one who is not possessed of a will power greater than that allotted to the average man, is almost sure to fall sooner or later under the temptation which comes to all of them from the over-anxiousness of people to do them a kindness. For example, the taking of puppies out to walk often falls to the lot of the first whipper-in, and you may be sure that at nearly every house at which he calls he will be offered a drink. Much as he may wish to refuse it will be difficult to do so without offending some one, and so the chances are that he will arrive at the kennels after his day's work, - half-seas over. If the whipper-in stops at this, we can forgive him, but the trouble is that the habit of "taking a drink" is apt to grow on anyone; and if a hunt servant gets to rely on drink to keep his nerve up, his days of usefulness are numbered.

Don't for an instant underestimate the difficulty of bringing a day's fox-hunting to a successful conclusion, and there is only ONE which is absolutely satisfactory to hounds, huntsman, Master and Field. To accomplish this result a huntsman has three tools to work with; hounds and two whippers-in. The efficacy of these tools depends, in a great degree up on the huntsman himself, and as I am supposing throughout this book that you are intending to hunt your own pack, I shall try to tell you how to train your men, as I have tried to tell you how to train your hounds. To get the best results there must be an understanding between huntsman, whippers-in and hounds, enabling all to work in perfect unison toward the same end.

The first whipper-in may always be considered as serving an apprenticeship, for the position of huntsman, while the second is always ready to take the place of the first.

You must insist on implicit obedience from your men, and although there will doubtless be many cases where they will think you are wrong, it is not for them ever to question your orders in any way. The respective duties of the two men in the field differ somewhat in different establishments; but I think I can do no better than tell you my own methods, and then let you make such improvements and changes in them as may seem to you best.

I have always found it better on drawing covert to send my first whipper-in on ahead to points where he is most likely to get a view, and to keep my second fairly near me, within easy hail. In England where the coverts are comparatively small it is customary in many places for both men to be posted on the outside, but in this country of large wooded areas this is impossible, as it is, in my opinion, essential to keep one of your men with you all the time. Hounds may run riot of some sort, or they may run heelway, or you may want to lift them ahead to a halloa, and in any of these instances a whipper-in is a necessity. Someone must be on the outside to view foxes away, and I have always let my first whipper-in do this part of the work, keeping my second with me when I am drawing. Let hounds once find, and the situation alters. It then becomes the duty of the second to hang back for a bit to try to get all hounds on, when he may get up as best he can, always on the lookout for the tail-enders. When hounds are running the first whipper-in must be in constant attendance on the huntsman, ready to aid him in turing hounds, or in any one of the thousand and one exigencies which may arise.

In some establishments the second-whip is expected to get on when coverts are approached, in order to view the hunted fox in case he comes out on the other side. This seems to me to be more a first whipper-in's place, as it is hardly possible for a second to get on ahead when he is expected to be in the rear of the pack bringing up tail-hounds, and can hardly be expected to be up. If a cast is being made, or if hounds are being taken for'd to a halloa, the second whipper-in should always be behind them so as to be in a position to stop them should they try to run heel.

The death of nine foxes out of ten is as much due to the whipper-in as to the huntsman, and the former should remember that they share in the glory of the final triumph. Unless huntsman and whips work together in cordial co-operation the hunt they serve will never attain satisfactory results. Of course, if the huntsman has had a bad fall, and is unable to come on, the task of hunting hounds falls on the first whip's shoulders, but he should never attempt to handle them unless the Master gives the order. By close observation and watching the mistakes of his huntsman, he will learn much more than by trying to take on himself the duties of his superior.

If leading hounds come out of cover in the line of their fox and the huntsman is not up, the whipper-in should go on with the halloaing For'd, for'd, for'd, til the huntsman comes up. It's hard enough to kill foxes here, anyway, and one has to take all the advantage one can. Of course a whipper-in going on with the hounds should keep halloaing for'd, for'd, until the huntsman hears him and then stop. It is a well-known fact that when any hounds are on with a fox, hounds coming up subsequently cannot go as well, and for that reason it is always better to "lift" hounds to a whipper-in's halloa of for'd, than to send them to it; though often they'll get there quicker than you can.

Someone has said that a whipper-in should keep his ears and eyes open, but his mouth shut, and no truer words were ever spoken. A good voice is a considerable advantage to a man, but I'd a great deal rather have a mute for a whipper-in than a man who is continually throwing his tongue like an over-excited young hound. Many men have good voices, and know it, and like to hear themselves, and such men are enough to drive any huntsman mad. Tell you men never to use their voices when they can let you see by some signal what has happened. It is much better for the hounds, as it does not get their heads up, which may cost them five or ten minutes.

Just let me cite an instance which I saw occur some few months ago: Hounds were sent to draw a small covert, and the first whipper-in was told to go to a point on its further edge where the fox was apt to break. Hounds found in a couple of minutes and ran their fox straight toward the waiting whip, the huntsman close up, cheering them on.

The fox crossed the road as expected, and there upon the whip, instead of holding up his cap, let forth a view halloa that would have waked the dead, although hounds were running hard and speaking. What happened? They put their heads up, some of them, although the main body kept on running, and crossed the road through a wire fence and on after their fox. The whipper-in, however, wasn't content with the damage he'd already done, but galloped off at right angles to the line they had taken, intent on making a point where he knew the fox in all probability would pass; continuing to halloa "for'd away," at the top of his voice, although the huntsman had heard him and wasn't fifty yards behind.

The pack were running almost at right angles to him converging gradually, and hearing the noise most of them got their heads up and a good many of them came over to him. Well, to make a long story short, it took the huntsman, who came up shortly, twenty minutes to get things straightened out and the hounds running well again. Now if that whipper-in had done as he should, he'd have held up his cap simply to let the huntsman see where the fox had crossed, instead of messing things up attempting to hunt them himself. There should be only one huntsman. He may be a bad one, or he may not, but that is a question for the Master only to decide; and any attempts at usurpation of his duties by the whipper-in should be promptly suppressed.

If a huntsman gets thrown out from some cause or other -- and there are times when the best take the wrong turn and are held up by wire or get a bad fall -- then let the whipper-in let hounds cast themselves at a check. All they should do is to ask the Field to stand still and give the hounds plenty of room. Finally if hounds fail to find the line, and neither M.F.H. nor huntsman is in sight, then and only then may the first whipper-in undertake to hunt the hounds.

When a whipper-in is sent to a point to view a fox away he should never allow himself to be drawn into conversation with any member of the Field who may chance to be there. He should remember that he is there to use his eyes and that nothing should

distract his attention for an instant. If the fox breaks covert, he should keep still and let him go, and then when he is well away, he should ride directly onto the line, and heading his horse the way the fox had gone, raise his cap. If the huntsman is in cover and can't see him, and the hounds are not already on the line, he should halloo; "Tally-ho gone away," or "Tally-ho back," if the fox has gone back to cover.

A whipper-in must be a good rider to be worth his salt. He must be able and willing to ride at anything and to go anywhere he is sent; and at the same time he must save his horse in every way he can, always remembering that they are given to him not for his own amusement but for the purpose of doing his work. He must be civil to everybody, the landowners as well as the members of the Field, and he should remember that a farmer does not always walk about in best broadcloth, and very naturally resents any rudeness on his own land from a whipper-in, who must remember that his conduct reflects indirectly on his master.

It is needless for me to tell you that the handiness and discipline of the pack is as dependent on the efficiency of whipper-in as upon the huntsman. Writers on this subject whose works were published early in the last century seemed to have enjoyed enlarging on the ferocity of the average pack, and countless tales are told of an unfortunate whipper-in who, venturing into the lodging room late at night to stop a fight, clad only in his shirt, was promptly set upon and eaten by the hounds. For the veracity of this tale I cannot vouch, although there is always a myth among hunt servants, each of whom usually knew the victim of the incident well (in his imagination). One thing is sure,--that the hounds of to-day are under far better control than were their ancestors of a hundred, or even fifty years ago. Let me quote from R. S. Surtes, who, writing his "Analysis of the Hunting Field" in 1846, says the following:

"Beckford relates how a kenneled pack ate up their huntsman--nothing of the unfortunate man being left to account for him-- and we have seen animals scouring the country that seemed equal to anything--anything from a "helephant down to a hearwig," as the dancing-master huntsman to the short lived Fulham harriers said of his. A man

that has never tried his hand with fox hounds has not the slightest conception of the undertaking. He sees forty or fifty couples of great strapping, high-conditioned animals all as docile and obedient as lap dogs - apparently rather inert than otherwise -- and he very likely fancies that listlessness is their characteristic, that they are sort of canine calves, and that anybody can manage them, little as hounds are attended to in the field, it must have struck even the most casual observer that totally different animals they are in kennels and out. In kennel they are an easy, indolent, devil-may-care sort of creatures, checked by a word, almost a look; but when their metal is roused by the scent, what deeds, what energy, what life, what determination is called forth! The huntsman's horn and the whipper-in's rate, are equally disregarded, and "getting at them" is the only chance of stopping them. How small a man feels in a kennel with some fifty or sixty couples looking and smelling at him as much as to say "Pray what business have you here"? How pleasant to stand calculating what portion of a mouthful a piece of one's carcass would make for the company! A man who has whipper-in to barriers labors under much the same disadvantage that the man does who has hunted them, - he is ignorant of the discipline indispensable for foxhounds. Instead of giving a hound one of those hearty good hidings which makes him tremble at his voice, he is always flopping and skutching, sometimes hitting, sometimes missing, but never making an impression.

A foxhound requires a tremendous hiding. Let not the French historians or the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals jump at the assertion. It is mercy in the end, most likely saving the animal from the halter. We have seen a sheep-worrier so licked that he could hardly crawl out of his kennels, and instead of attacking sheep again he was afraid to look one in the face.

After one of these severe flagellations a hound running riot will stop as if shot, at the sound of the voice that accompanied the medicine. Of course these hearty hidings are only for flagrant faults, - sheep worrying, - deer hunting, poultry killing, and the like. All young hounds will riot occasionally -- a great thumping hare starting up under

their noses is enough to lead anyone astray, and it is the checking and stopping that the discipline or non-discipline of an establishment is shown. Some fellows will set to roaring and riding, cracking their whips, making confusion worse dumfounded, while others just trot quietly on till they are near the delinquent, then dropping his name heartily into his ear, followed by the crack of the whip check his unlicensed career and send him back to the pack. Some let them have their riot out, especially when the old hounds are steady, and then shame the young ones on their return. Beckford thought it as well, provided they didn't get blood.

Some hounds are dreadfully headstrong, and know the advantage of having a high wall coped with mortar and bordered with broken bottles between them and the man that is rating them. For them Beckford says: "My general orders to my whippers-in are, if when he rates a hound, the hound does not mind him, to take him up immediately and give him a severe flogging. Whippers-in are too apt to continue rating, even when they find that rating will not avail. There is but one way to stop such hounds, which is to get to the heads of them."

I have given the above words of Mr. Sturtes in full, because it seems to me that it describes the manner in which a whipper-in should do his work in the field, almost better than anything I've ever read, and much better than I could do it. The last clause i.e. to get to the heads of hounds before rating them is of the utmost importance, as is the rule to call a hound by name when he is rated and tell him what he is rated for, as "Warfare, ware hare, (crack) ware hare, Warfare, ware hare, ware hare," It is needless to say that hounds should be broken from all riot by the time the hunting begins and that the general rate of "Have a care," should answer all purposes.

Many of these things I have mentioned in my chapter on kennel management, but they seem to me of sufficient importance to speak of again here. I think I have said in another part of this book that I disapprove of the excessive use of the whip at any time, and I will only state just here that because a man can crack a whip is

is no reason for him to think he is fitted for the position of whipper-in. No greater nuisance can happen to a pack of hounds than a lad who has acquired the knack of cracking a whip well. He is perpetually seeking opportunities of displaying his skill, and old Boxer would as soon almost have to deal with a rattlesnake. On foot, he doesn't care much about the urchin, and gives him to understand by surly growls and bristles up that he'd better keep his distance; but on horseback he is out of Boxer's reach, and is a perfect tyrant, flicking him in the legs when he wants to stop behind for certain purposes, and trying to ride over him, into the bargain. Don't forget by the way, that a whipper's-in horse has a great deal of work to do, and the lighter your men are the easier it will be to mount them. I should not, however, advise you when engaging men to act as whippers-in, to consider weight when not over 150 lbs, is a detriment.

The kennel duties of the first and second whipper-in are regulated to a great degree by the rules of the establishment in which they serve; and I can only state for the benefit of young masters the regime carried on in my own kennels. While hounds are being walked out in the early morning, the whipper-in who is not walking them out with the huntsman is cleaning out the lodging room and swilling out the yard in which that particular lot of dogs or bitches, as the case may be, live. If it is in the hunting season, and hounds go out every morning early, this work must be done by the kennelmen. Of course, when hounds are not either "on the road," or hunting, whippers-in are always supposed to be with them. If a whipper-in, in addition to this, keeps his clothes in order and aids the huntsman in attendance on sick hounds, etc., he will find it takes him all his time.

One thing it is most important you should impress upon your men; and that it, that they can tell in what covert a hound was missing should he fail to turn up at the end of the day. In addition, they must always be able to tell the huntsman at all times how many are lacking or if all are "on". Counting hounds is a trick which is quite easy after one learns it; but a huntsman has enough on his mind at nearly all times of the day without having to be bothered to count them himself.

I have tried to make most of the foregoing remarks applicable to both the first and second whippers-in, but after all the varying tastes of the huntsman they serve will be a far better guide than anything I can write. To such whippers-in as may read this book I would say three things. First: Study the ways and methods of your huntsman, striving not only to learn his wishes and accomplish them, but also to learn to think along similar lines, so that you can act instantly at a look or a word from your superior. Also to remember that you are after all serving an apprenticeship to his office, and that any bits of knowledge you pick up from him will aid you when your day comes to "Carry the horn," Second: Study your hounds; learn the peculiarities of each one, so that you can tell which ones to trust when it comes to riot. Don't rate or strike then unnecessarily, but when you do strike, strike hard. Third:- Study the ways of foxes; learn their runs, their earths, their tricks-- all you can of them in fact.

To such masters as are about to engage whippers-in, I beg also to give a word of advice. If a man is young, strong a good horseman, intelligent, sober and fond of the sport, he ought to make a good whipper-in. If he comes from people who have been in hunt service, or if he has had experience, so much the better.

CHAPTER X.

THE FIELD

"I remember how merry a start we got
When the red fox broke from the gorse;
In a country so deep, with a scent so hot
That the hound could outpace the horse.
I remember how few in the front rank showed,
How endless appeared the trail
On the brown hillside, as we crossed the road
And headed towards the vale,"

Adam Lindsay Gordon.

CHAPTER X

THE FIELD

It is quite impossible for any American to realize the number of people who go foxhunting in England, and therefore equally impossible to realize the size of the fields. Here in America it is very rare to see more than fifty people at a meet, while the average number who really "go" would certainly be placed safely at fifteen. The reason for this is, I think, that there are not enough real sportsmen among those who are able to spare the time from their business, who care to spend half a day in watching hounds work unless they are sure of a run. Be that as it may, it is a certain thing that the American master of foxhounds has a far less difficult problem to solve in the handling of his Field than his brother M.F.H. over the water.

My main object in this chapter is to give beginners at the game an idea of their duties in the field, toward the master, toward the hunt, and toward the other members of the Field. Much of the trouble caused by crowding, loud talking etc., etc., in the course of a day's sport, would, I am convinced, be stopped if men knew what an inconvenience they are causing.

When hounds are put into covert, don't gallop off after the first whip, who is sent on to view the fox away. Stay where the master tells you to, or if working a big woodland, keep well in the rear of hounds. If you see the fox break covert keep your mouth shut till he is well away, then ride directly onto his line, turn your horse's head in the direction he has gone, and if hounds are speaking hold up your hat to indicate that you've seen him. If hounds aren't speaking you may view halloa, but even then you should never do it until you are on the exact line of the hunted fox. Halloas do more damage than any one has any idea of, and nothing annoys a huntsman more than to have a member of the Field tell him that he saw the fox "over there," and point in an indefinite sort of way. Major Wadsworth admonishes the Field not to "cap on the leading hounds";

I should say that any member of the Field who had the temerity to "cap on" any hounds at any time deserved a taste of the Master's tongue.

And don't on viewing a fox, ride after him; you'll only bring down the huntsman's wrath on your head for foiling the line, and you'll never catch him. Keep away from hounds at all times. Few people realize the effect that any interruption, however trivial it may appear to the outsider, has on hounds, or for that matter on the huntsman. If the huntsman is concentrating all his powers on the making of a certain cast, trying with his might and main to get the hounds to hunt, it is very distracting to hear one man call to another, and in loud tones start a conversation of the following order: "Oh, Jack, were you at the Perkins' ball last night?" "Yes," you didn't go did you?"--etc. Up come hounds' heads; they look around to see what's up, and Mr. Fox had gained two or three precious minutes.

If hounds check, stand perfectly still till they have made their cast and gone on. Horses foil a line as badly as sheep, cattle, or anything else; besides which if hounds are being pressed in any one direction, however slowly, they instinctively work that way. Keep away from the huntsman too; he doesn't want to talk to you or any one else at such a time. If he is a professional he can't well be rude and tell you so, though in all probability the Master will do it for him; if the Master is hunting his own hounds, he certainly will. When hounds are going along the road, don't encroach on the space between the firsts and second whippers-in. It belongs to the pack. There is plenty of room for you elsewhere. When hounds are running and are about to pass near you turn your horses' head in the direction they are going. Once hounds are fairly settled to their fox, pick your line and stick to it. Don't ride directly behind hounds; keep a bit on one side. If you ride on their tails they'll stop and look back to see if they are going to get stepped on; and they've got their work cut out to catch their fox and have no time to waste on you.

A man should never under any consideration ride "in another's pocket." It is a most dangerous and unfair thing to do and may result in an accident you would regret all your life. When hounds are running never try to thrust past people into a good

place; work your way up gradually, always keeping your horse well in hand in case hounds turn or check. If hounds run their fox into a covert don't be too keen to get to the other side,--you may head the fox; and if you do see him be sure it is the hunted one before you halloo. Take your time and remember that if you keep always within striking distance, as it were, of the huntsman, you won't go far wrong. In this country of thick coverts it is always better to try to keep near hounds. If you stop to "Pass the time of day" with a friend you are liable to lose hounds, and your day's sport is gone.

Man's duty to his fellow sportsman should prevent him from bringing a biter or a kicker to the meet, and should make him careful never to encroach on his neighbor's rights at a fence. Be kind and considerate to everybody, and always be ready to lend your fellow sportsman a helping hand. You may be in the same box yourself some day.

While not exactly in the category of duties towards the Master, it is nevertheless of the utmost importance that every member of the hunt should take the greatest pains to injure no one's property, and if by any chance rails are broken or gates left open, he should report the matter to the Master or secretary of the hunt at once. Don't think that damage can be made right with money. Often times it can't, and it only makes matters worse by angering the already aggrieved party. American farmers are a queer lot; if handled wisely and tactfully, quite amenable to reason; but if once they think you're imposing on them there is, to use forcible language, "the devil to pay." And as I said in the chapter on the whipper-in, Mr. Farmer doesn't always go about in his Sunday best, so be careful what you do and say on any man's land, except your own, and even there you may call down the wrath of the Master who all unknowingly may haul you over the coals for damaging your own property, as no man can keep track of his followers' possessions.

I call to mind the experience of one well meaning master, who, seeing one of his horse Field busily engaged in tearing down a wall over which his/wouldn't jump, re-monstrated with him in no mild manner. "Who the hell are you?" came the answer; this is my farm." It is perhaps needless for me to tell you that the master was a stranger to the land-owner, who after he found out the master's good intentions, apologized.

CHAPTER XI.

The Fox.

There are two kinds of foxes which are regularly hunted by hounds in America, the red fox (*Vulpes fulvus*), and the grey fox (*Urocyon cinereo argenteus*). There are several other varieties to be found in the north and west, but only these two are hunted with sufficient regularity to make them worthy of consideration in this book, in fact only the red fox is sure to give hounds a good run when once they find him, the other being an errant coward which takes shelter as soon as possible.

I find that the origin and distribution of the red fox in this country is shrouded in much mystery, and as it is a matter of considerable interest to sportsmen I have gone to great lengths to obtain all the information I could on the subject. This information I shall submit to you before making any statements on the question, so that you may also make your own deductions. Personally, I had never seriously considered the theory that the red fox of America was in any way intimately connected with his English cousin until I read the following statement made by General Roger D. Williams, M.F.H. of the Iroquois Hunt, of Lexington, Kentucky, in his book "Horse and Hound", published in 1905:

"The red fox was unknown in America previous to 1760, at which time a number of them were imported from England and liberated on Long Island. They made their way to the mainland, and to-day are found from North Carolina and Tennessee to the whole north-eastern part of the United States, as far west as Montana, and as far north as Alaska."

This statement by General Williams struck me as so amazing that I promptly set about to investigate its authenticity, with the following results:

When the white man first came to America, the red fox, *Vulpes fulvus*, seems to have been distributed all over the north-eastern portion of the country from the Atlantic coast to the great plains and from the far north to Delaware and Pennsylvania. No evidences

have been found of its existing farther south in the early history of the country, though it has gradually worked its way farther and farther south until to-day it is found from Alaska to the Gulf of Mexico.

The earliest record seems to be given by Bartholomew Gosnold in 1602 who speaks of having bought black fox skins from the Indians at Buzzard's Bay, Massachusetts. These will, of course, be *vulpes fulvus*, as it is a well known fact that the black fox is only a melanotic phase of the red variety. One Martin Pring found at Plymouth, Massachusetts, "Foxesand Dogges with sharpe noses." The former were no doubt the red and the latter the gray foxes. John Smith, 1614, found black foxes in New England. In 1657 we have another record, for Thomas Norton in his "New English Canaan" says "the foxes are to two colors; the one red, the other gray." Samuel Williams in his History of Vermont mentions both red and gray foxes.

As to the importation of the red fox into this country, I do not for an instant question General Williams' statement that this was done, though I can hardly believe that the red foxes of to-day even in the southern states have sprung entirely from such importations, and it seems to me that the above statements refute pretty convincingly those made by him. He is supported, however, by no less an authority than Samuel N. Rhoads, whom in his book on the Mammals of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, published in 1903, has a good deal to say about the southeastern red fox.

"Faunal distribution -- Canadian, transition, and upper austral zones, southern Maine to Minnesota (great Plains) south in mountains to North Carolina, and in lowlands encroaching into Western Tennessee and eastern Virginia; merging in Nova Scotia into *V. fulvus rubicosa* (Bangs) of which *V. rubicosa* Bangs, of Merriam, from Labrador (based on a young female) another sub-species, did not the arbitrary law of insular isolation over balance the physiological law of conspecific affinity.

Records in Pa..... Kalm in his travels, Vol. 1. 1770, p. 283 says "The Red Foxes are very scarce here (Pennsylvania and New Jersey): they are entirely the same with the European sort." He further states that Bartram of Philadelphia told him the Indians were unanimous in saying the red fox was never in the country before Europeans.

Finally, remember one thing. The master is king, and a king can do no wrong. If you don't like his treatment of you, settle it at some other time, but not in the field. When you are out you must swallow what he says in silence. If you don't like it, go home. The average master is justified in saying anything to rank offenders; which leads me to a little story of a well-known master in England, who swore badly at one of his field. The offended party rode up to him and said; " Look here, my Lord ! I didn't come out to be damned." "Then go home and be damned !" was the prompt reply.

CHAPTER XI.

THE FOX.

We roused a dog fox from his lair on the haw;
As he stole down the rugged hill side
Through the heather and boulders, I thought I saw,
We were in that day for a ride.
I marked his gray back and his sharp pointed nose
And his long body limber and lean,
So supple all over from shoulder to toes
And the best brush that ever was seen.

Hollows from the Hills. Scott-Anderson.

Whoo whoop, they have him, they're round him
How they worry and tear when he's down
'Twas a stone hill fox when they found him,
Now 'tis a hundred tatters of brown.

Whyte-Melville.

In a discussion of the identity of the American and European red foxes in 3. Doughty's Cabinet of Natural History, 1830, vol. 1, pp. 23-29, there occurs the following significant allusion to the former absence of the red fox in Perry County, Pennsylvania: "In 1787 when quite a boy I was at the death of the first red fox killed in Perry Co., Pa. Not a person present, nor any one who saw if for some days had ever seen or heard of an animal of the kind. At last it was shown to a Mr. Lenarton, an old Jerseyman, who pronounced it an English fox. He said the red fox was imported into New York from England by one of the first English governors who was said to be a great sportsman, and turned out on Long Island, where they remained for many years, but at last made their way on the ice to the mainland and spread over the country." See American turf register and Sporting magazine, vol. 1, P.74.

Andubon and Bachman in their great work on the Quadrupeds of North America, published in 1841, state that "this fox in times gone by was comparatively rare in Virginia and farther south was unknown. It is now seldom or never to be met with beyond Kentucky or Tennessee." They further state that one of the governors of the colonies supposed the red fox to have been imported from England.

Mr. Rhodes then goes on to say,- "In view of these statements and of the fact that European foxes had been introduced into New England, Pennsylvania, and Virginia for sporting purposes by the middle of the 18th Century (1750) it looks quite likely that the red foxes mentioned by Kalm as being found in N. J. and Pa., 1770, and the one in Perry Co. 1789 and those distributed by Demarest as coming from Virginia in 1820 were pure descendants of the European red fox. In such a case *Vulpes fulvus* of course is a synonym of *Vulpes vulpes*. (Linnaeus). Where then was the American red fox in pre-Columbian times? If it was not in Perry Country in 1799, nor in the mountains of Virginia till a much later date, it must have been somewhere in the region north of the Great Lakes or in the Hudson Bay regions, , where the Delaware Valley Indians, who talked to Bartram, couldn't come in contact with it. This was probably the case, and in these regions only are we to seek for specimens to establish the real differences between the two continental forms. No doubt, the difficulty of determining the status

of the two in the past has been due to the use by naturalists of specimens more or less thoroughly European in their ancestry. Prof. S. F. Baird establishes the almost certain non-existence of the red fox in Eastern Pennsylvania during comparatively recent times by the following statements, which are so pertinent to this matter that I quote them: "It is not a little remarkable that there have been as yet no remains of the red fox detected among the (post pliocene and more recent) fossils derived from the Carlisle and other bone caves. The gray fox is abundantly represented, but not a trace of the other. This would almost give color to the impression, somewhat prevalent, that the red fox of Eastern America is the descendant of individuals of the European red fox imported many years ago, and allowed to run wild and overspread the country.

"So far as the above statements go "(Says Mr. Rhodes) "with many others of like import, it may be asserted as an indisputable fact that no satisfactory comparison was ever made and published which had for its subjects a series of European and Virginian or Pennsylvanian red foxes with skins, skulls and data prepared according to modern standards."

Now although this evidence tends to show that some red foxes were imported to this country from England in the early days, it does not, I think, lead one to believe that the red fox of the south to-day is the same beast as the English animal, to say nothing of the foxes of Pennsylvania, New York, New England and the regions to the north; in fact a comparison of specimens shows the following distinct differences

In the American fox (*Vulpes fulvus*) the legs are black pretty much to the body, whereas in the English fox the nose is proportionately longer; and the tail tapers from base to tip, instead of being of the same thickness for most of its length as in the case of its American cousin. There is some difference in general body color, but then American and European foxes differ among themselves in this regard,

Editorial Note. At the time tha Mr. Higginson wrote this dissertation about the North American red fox there was insufficient knowledge about fox genetics and biology to be dead certain. Today the animal biologists have come a long way with their research. There was a young biologist who was a guest of Ben Hardaway's at the American Foxhound Club meeting at Bryn Mawr this June (1979). He works for the Savannah Project and is using his skills to track the hunted fox in the Savannah District with radio transmitting collars.

I believe that he could very easily help us with a concise, and accureate statement about the North American Red Fox vs. the English Red Fox and the Grey Fox. If you think this would make an interesting and a useful Appendix I would be glad to track it down.

J.H.D.

Personally I fail to see why it is not more probable that the red fox indigenous to the north has gradually worked his way south, for what reasons I must admit I cannot tell; and in this wholesale immigration he has been aided by many sportsmen in the south, who were only too glad to welcome the little red rover to their midst.

The gray fox is indigenous to all of the southern states; but, as I have said, it is almost certain to show poor sport, as it runs in small circles and goes to ground or climbs a tree if at all hard pressed.

The habits of the red fox are very different. It seems to take delight in running ahead of hounds, and I have often seen a fox that had thrown hounds off its line for the time being, sit on a hill and watch them puzzling away in the valley below as if it were laughing at them; and then when they were settled to the line again, slip on ahead with quiet indifference. The tricks which this little beast will resort to in order to accomplish such a result are endless. Many times foxes will run through sheep or cattle, which will invariably foil the line, or jump on a wall and run along the top for several hundred yards, or run into coverts and lie down, sometimes crossing a brook or even much larger streams. In this instance the hunted fox will often lie so close that the chances are more than good that hounds in trying to find it, will jump another fox which will take the entire pack away with it. I do not go so far as to say that I think foxes help each other out deliberately, though I confess I see no reason why this should not be the case. It is a well known fact that a hunted stag will when pressed often go into a covert and put up a fresh animal, forcing him to take his place. If this is so with stag, why not with the fox? At any rate, certain it is that this fact of changing in a covert is often the cause of losing many foxes.

I might go on to tell anecdote after anecdote showing the cleverness of the animal in throwing off its pursuers. I shall be content with two. The first of these is told by the Reverend T. F. Tale in an article entitled "Foxes I have known", which was published in Bailey's Magazine for March, 1907.

"Another notable fox I knew was one of a litter brought from a Scotch shooting by a friend. As soon as he was old enough I got him down in a covert. I saw him once or twice during cub-hunting. He was rather light-colored, and stood higher on the leg than our native foxes did. For some time he disappeared, having as I afterwards found, shifted his quarters to a wood belonging to a hunting squire. He had been here several times, as he always followed the shooters when the wood was beaten, and was generally viewed, halloed by some enthusiastic fox-hunter. At last one day the hounds found him. It was a scenting day, but he had rather the best of the start; the whipper-in told me he had viewed him and was sure it was my "Scotch" cub; straight and well he ran; making a five mile point. He was eventually lost on the banks of a stream.

Well, that fox became an institution. When he was found he broke boldly and ran the same line almost yard for yard to the banks of the stream; there he was always lost. For three seasons the "Scotch" fox was a standing dish, and when the day on that side of the country was a poor one, and we were spoiling for a gallop, we went to look for him, as sure of a find and a run as if we had had him in a bog.

Nevertheless, I was very curious to know how the escape was managed. We had a very clever huntsman, but he confessed himself puzzled when we talked it over. At last one afternoon after an unlucky day when everything had gone wrong, and the master announced his intention of drawing for the Scotch fox, I determined to sacrifice a hunt to curiosity. I trotted off, keeping carefully to the roads and lanes till I reached an old bridge which crossed the stream a hundred yards or so above the spot where we usually lost our fox. I thought by placing myself on the bridge I should be so much above the fox's line of vision that he would not see me, while I might be able to solve the secret of his disappearance, or, at any rate, obtain a key to the mystery. It was a clear, still afternoon, a gentle breeze blew towards me, and faint sounds of the hunt warned me to be on the look out. Yes, there was my gray fox loping along in an easy, business-like manner. I never before

realized the perfect grace and ease of a hunted but unwearied fox so well as then, and I saw him slide through the hedges and across the ridge and furrow.

When he came to the middle of the last field he sat up and waited, listening. Then as he heard the cry of the approaching pack he trotted gently down to the stream, dropped into the shallow water near the edge and crept quietly down till he disappeared under the bridge. Presently my horse pricked his ears and snorted, and there creeping along the parapet towards me was the fox. The movement of the horse caught his eye, and he stopped, turned round in the sinuous manner of a startled fox, crept quietly back and took a flying leap into some bushes on the bank and disappeared. His plan which I had interrupted was now clear. He crept down the stream which, flowing quickly, swept away the scent; then on the far side of the bridge he came out and jumped onto the parapet, trotted to the further side, ran down by the side of the stream, crossed, and returned back to his original covert.

This time no doubt hounds might have hit off the line, but the scent wasn't very good, and by the time hounds came up it was nearly gone. The end of this came by an accident.. Our Master was not a great bookworm, but he did once read a book during a frost. In this it was stated that foxes when they have shaken off hounds frequently return immediately to the covert they live in, even from considerable distances. The first time after this that the "scotch" fox was found he ran as usual to the stream and was lost without much delay, the master blew his horn and trotted straight back toward the covert, casting right round it. Hounds showed a line, dashed into the covert, and the fox breaking again they ran into him two fields further on. Then, and not till then, I told the master of the fox's device."

The other instance, which is somewhat similar, was told me by my hound huntsman, who vouches for the authenticity of the facts.

A certain fox, from a certain covert, ran always the same line and was lost at the same point. The huntsman finally instructed his whipper-in to go to this point when next they found this fox, to see if he could make out what occurred, and the following was the results

At the place where the loss always occurred grew a bed of wild mint and in this the fox deliberately rolled himself and then got up and went unconcernedly on, apparently quite aware that he had destroyed his own scent for the time being.

The question of scent has been so thoroughly gone into in Chapter XII. that I shall not refer to the subject again except to mention that I agree with Mr. J. Otho Paget in his theory that each individual fox possesses an individual scent, although I question if the hound is yet bred which can distinguish this difference, or at least if he can distinguish it, can realize that he should stick to the one scent of the hunted fox.

My kennel huntsman, however, tells me that he has frequently seen and hunted a fox into a covert in which was more than one fresh fox, and in many cases hounds have stuck to the line of their hunted fox and killed him. This contingency I should however, think might be accounted for by the fact that according to Col. Talbot's theory a fox which is moving rapidly gives out more scent than one which is going along slowly or lying still. In any case, hounds which can and do stick to one line in this manner are certainly of great value.

We all know, I think, that the fox is nocturnal in its habits, making most of its excursions after food when the countryside is wrapped in sleep between the hours of ten o'clock at night and dawn, and it is this habit that is taken advantage of by the earth-stopped who stops or "puts to" the earths while the occupants are away. Earthstopping is a universal practice in England; and one of the reasons why so few foxes are killed above ground in America is because as a rule it is not done here. I am of the opinion that it is next to impossible to kill any number of foxes above ground in an unstopped country, although it can be and is done two or three times during the season. In some countries earth-stopping is absolutely impossible, owing to the fact that the "dens", as they are aptly called in those sections, are in crevices or cliffs, etc. In many countries, however, partial stopping is quite feasible, though one must have for earthstopper a man who is not afraid of work, and who can be trusted to perform his

duties faithfully. Even then it is next to impossible to know of all the earths in a heavily wooded district.

The man who acts as earthstopper for me in my home country in Massachusetts, is a man who has been a hunter and trapper all his life, and whose knowledge of the habits of the fox and of woodcraft in general stands him in good stead. His method of procedure is as follows. About the end of March, when the female fox (vixen) lays up her cubs, on this side of the water, he goes about and by careful search locates the litters of cubs in the various coverts about the country. These he reports to me about April 30th. During the summer he keeps a watchful eye on each litter, noting the number of cubs and the various places where they are. Sometimes a vixen will shift the cubs from one covert to another for some reason or other, and this is his business to note and report to me. I am apt to go ~~once~~ or twice during the summer to see for myself how these cubs are getting on - it is usually an easy thing to get a look at them, with a little care.

When cubbing begins my earthstopper puts a liquid called "Renardine" (procured from Gilberton & Page, Bedford, England), into all the earths into each district except one, and so pungent is the odor of this liquid that the earths are promptly vacated, when they are permanently stopped for the season to remain so until they are reopened about February 1st. This simplifies the work of the earthstopper to a considerable extent, as he has then only one earth in each covert to look after. It is perhaps best that I should say in this connection that if there are two or more litters in any one district, we always have an earth for each litter. The earthstopper is of course apprised of the country to be hunted, in advance, and he goes the night before to those earths remaining open in that district and stops them up, when the foxes are not looking after provender. Of course, sometimes a fox is stopped in, but as these earths are always reopened directly after hunting, little harm is done. For the benefit of the uninitiated it may be said here that earths are best stopped by bundles of poles the ends of which may then be covered with earth, although this is unnecessary.

Little remains for me to say on the subject of this chapter, except to give an explanation of the best method of getting out foxes that have been run to ground. It is to my mind of great importance to dig out these that have thus taken refuge, as it not only encourages hounds to mark ^{them} ~~ent~~, but also discourages other foxes from doing the same thing. Let us follow, then, the method of procedure when a fox has gone to ground. A good terrier which knows the game is absolutely essential, but even with a good terrier one must have a vast amount of patience to succeed. Let us assume that you have both and have decided to dig out. Your terrier, which is being led by your runner, - a position which may be filled by your earthstopper - or shut up at some convenient farm house, is brought up and put into the earth, the pack having been removed to some little distance. He should go in at once, and by his baying let you know the direction the fox has taken. Let me admonish you by the way, to see that all entrances to the earth other than the one at which you are working, are stopped up. Your men at once commence to dig, starting at the entrance by which the terrier has gone in. Except in very exceptional cases, which I will speak of presently, never attempt to "crown" down to where the terrier is baying, but begin at the beginning and follow your hole, carefully stopping all side passages, and marking them with a long stick as you come to them. Two things are most important. First:- keep your excavation wide enough to work in with comfort. Second:- keep the bottom of it below the sole of the hole. In addition never allow the fresh earth caused by digging to block the mouth of the hole for more than a minute at a time; your terrier must have air. In time you'll reach your fox; when the hole should be sufficiently widened to allow hounds to pull it out themselves, which they should always be allowed to do, for reasons which must be evident. The only excuse for crowning is in cases where you can tell by the baying of the terriers that the earth has risen, and that the fox is near the surface of the ground.

Earths vary very much in size and extent, sometimes requiring several hours digging, though at times half an hour will suffice. All passages of an earth invariably communicate with each other, and your fox may shift from time to time, thus causing you much extra labor. If any side passages were left open he might easily escape. One

thing must be remembered - never leave the entrance unguarded for an instant. Foxes are always on the lookout for this, and will escape if you do.

Good terriers are hard to procure anywhere, particularly in this country, and if a man can get hold of one he had better hold on to it at any price. The average show terrier to-day is usually worthless for this work., both because he is too big and because he is unused to the game.

CHAPTER XII.

The art itself, with special reference to American conditions. A discussion of scent and conditions which produce it.

"When the fallows are dry, when manure has been thrown;
With a storm in the air, with the ground like a stone,
When we're all in a muddle, beat, baffled, and blown,
See! Bachellor has it! Bill. Let him alone.

Speak to it Bachellor!

Go hark to him! Hark!

Whyte-Melville.

CHAPTER XII.

It is obvious that it would be impossible to cover every point which may come up in a day's hunting; experience has taught me that conditions are rarely the same, and rules which might be perfectly applicable on one day would perhaps not be so on the next. In this chapter I shall try to tell the novice the principals of the art and then he will have to apply them as he thinks best. Let me say again, however, that a day in the field with an experienced huntsman will teach you more than hours of study in your den.

I think that I can hardly do better than to take a day's hunting later in the season and describe it in much the same manner in which I did the cubbing day in a previous chapter. The regular season in England opens on the first of November, but in this country, owing to the harsher climate in some parts, there is no regular date, each pack beginning at a time of the year in conformity with existing conditions. The Montreal, and Canadian Hunts begin about October 1st, while those in the Northern U. S. are scarcely, of any, behind it. About Philadelphia, and South of that point, November ^{usual} first is the rule although the exact date usually varies with different organizations. The hour for meeting also varies a good deal; some masters, particularly those of packs where American hounds are used, putting their meets as early as eight o'clock, while at Montreal ten is, I believe, the usual hour. Where the American method of picking up a cold feed-trail and working it out slowly until the fox is found is practiced, there is a very good reason for this early start; but I think if one intends to draw covert in the usual way, that one is apt to get as good a scent at ten or eleven o'clock, as at an earlier hour. This question, however, depends in a great degree upon the scouting conditions and is, I think, a matter which a master can best decide for himself.

We will suppose, however, that the meet is set for ten o'clock, and that your opening day dawns with every prospect of being a good one for hunting, and let me say right here that no man, no matter how great his experience in such matters, can foretell very much about scent. Get your hounds away from the kennels in ample time to get to the

meet without hurrying, and mark my instructions in the chapter on cubbing, don't take them too fast, six miles an hour is the rule. Your men must be dressed in their best to-day; don't fail to turn them out well, it 's just as cheap in the end and you are sure to be watched by many critical eyes if this is your first appearance in the field. Scarlet coats are, of course, the uniform de rigueur although there is no particular reason why a master should not turn out his hunt staff in any other uniform if he prefers it, provided all are alike and look workmanlike. The horse equipment too, should be of the best, and look as if it were meant for work. Hunt team appointments at shows have come to be considered somewhat of a fad, but in reality they are not, as everything on a huntsman's or whipper-in's saddle is there for a reason.

For example, the huntsman should have a horn case on the nigh side of his saddle, the MASTER if he, is acting as huntsman will also want a flask or sandwich case. The two whippers-in should carry each a pair of couples on the nigh side of the saddle; and in addition to this, all three men should carry wire nippers. Hunting saddles should be leather-lined, have plain flaps, and should be large and roomy, weighing from twelve to fifteen pounds. All the bridles should be alike if possible, either single or double with cavesson nose-bands, and the head pieces and reins should be sewed, not buckled to the bits. Breastplates are a matter of taste, but they should either be worn by all or by none. Martingales I do not like, though if a horse won't go without them they may be used. All three men should wear spurs of the same pattern, and they will of course use the same kind of Whips which should be issued to them at the beginning of the season. A pair of woolen rain gloves should also be carried under the saddle girths. So much for gear.

Up to now I have said nothing about horses nor do I intend in this book to go into any detail about them, but I must ask you to remember that good horses are essential to huntsmen and whippers-in as eyes and ears, for how can they do their work unless they are properly mounted? The huntsman can't make his casts, the whipper-in can't turn the hounds, and last but not least the master can't see the puppies he has bred

and raised so carefully do the work which justifies their existence.

So I'm going to give you an idea of horses for the huntsman and whippers-in, and in giving you the former I shall be telling you my idea of a master's horse, for a huntsman's horse is, or should be, perfection. Beckford has said that a perfect huntsman was never made, and I am inclined to think that a perfect huntsman's horse is nearly as difficult to find. I've never seen but one, and he is under the sod. But let me tell you of the qualities such an animal should possess. He must be fast; if he has not speed he can't carry his master instantly to a given point without wasting the fraction of a second, and yet speed is of little use unless coupled with the quality of courage which he must have to withstand the strain of the long days which he will be called upon to work. He must be gentle as a kitten, have a mouth that responds to the gentlest movement of the hand, stand still when he is told to, gallop when asked to; jump anything jumpable, and try to jump anything. He must have a constitution of iron, legs of steel, and a heart of gold.

I've said nothing about conformation, nor do I intend to. This is a book about hounds, not horses - but it matters little how plain your hunt servants' horses are, provided they can jump and gallop and stand on their feet. Don't economize, however, by getting bad jumpers that are continually falling; it is unfair to your men and moreover a good sized bill from the hospital at the end of the season will more than make up the difference, to say nothing of the inconvenience of having men always laid up. One thing more -- The quietest horse will kick at a strange dog. One well directed kick and your best hound dog may be no more; witness the sad fate of Belvoir Bayster; so the best thing to do is to accustom hunt horses to the presence of hounds long before the season opens.

You may be fortunate enough to breed your own hunters, and if you do I can only advise you to send them on the road with hounds at an early age, as soon as they are broken. Hound exercise is excellent horse exercise, and if a colt gets used to having

a thong used off his back and to seeing hounds, it's more than half the battle. If, on the other hand, you pick up your horses as three year olds, and then make them yourself, you will do well to break them to hounds before anything else.

But meanwhile we've been jogging along toward the meet taking care to let hounds get well emptied out on the way. Greet everyone pleasantly as you ride up, not forgetting old Mrs. Pilkington who walked the winning puppy for you; and then pull up in the village green to await the time set for the fixture. Promptly at five minutes past the hour you should move off to the covert which you have previously decided to draw. Arrived at covert-side, station your Field at a point where you think a fox is not likely to break, or, if the covert is a large one, and you see fit, let them follow you, being sure that they keep quiet and well back. To some Englishmen this last suggestion will seem little short of insanity, but in certain woodland countries in America if a Field is not allowed to work along behind the Master they will often lose hounds, and see nothing of the run. One must remember too, that fields in America are usually very small, which makes a great deal of difference.

Send your first whipper-in to a point where you think the fox is likely to break covert and keep the second whipper-in near you,- always within easy speeding distance. When you have given your man time to get to his point, put your hounds into the covert, encouraging them with your voice to draw. "Eu in, Eu in to cover there" is the usual cheer on first putting hounds in, followed as you continue to draw on by "Yoi over on" "Try on" "Try on", "Route him out" "Have a try there," "Try there my lads," etc. If you want hounds to try over a ride or a wall, or in fact any obstacle which may happen to be in the way, the cheer is "Yoi over on, over, over," etc. I have said nothing about drawing up or down wind because in this country of extensive coverts it seems to me of no great moment. A fox will almost invariably turn down wind within a few fields no matter which way he "goes away," and except for the fact that it is of some advantage to have hounds up wind of you because of hearing them better, there is very little to be gained either way.

But meanwhile hounds are drawing steadily on, and it behooves us to be with them

and to see how the pack has improved since we last followed them in early August. Work along slowly not hurrying them, but letting them know that you are there and encouraging them to work. Presently you note "Dowager" feathering excitedly near a likely looking spot on a warm sunny slope. Two or three of the hounds have seen her actions and have galloped over to her. Encourage her, "For'd good bitch, push him up Dowager." Hounds are joining the little bunch from all sides, flinging themselves about, and just as "Dowager" begins to whimper, you hear your whip on the outside. "Tally-ho gone away". Now cheer them to it. "For'd little bitches, For'd, For'd." and as the pack break out into a chorus of music you gallop as hard as you can to the outside of the covert, your horse bucks over a little rail fence and you catch sight of your whip standing still and swinging his cap in the direction the fox has taken.

The leading hounds are already on the line, your second whipper-in is rating the others out of covert to the cry while you are galloping on abreast of the leaders, blowing your horn. Once you get them all on, and well away, keep quiet; you'll do no good by cheering, and it might get their heads up. Ride quietly near them but a bit to one side and keep your eyes on the leading hounds.

Suddenly the cry stops, and hounds begin to swing about casting for the lost line, though two or three of the more excitable ones keep galloping for'd. Don't touch them, just hold up your hand to stop the oncoming Field. Directly ahead is a farm yard, and as hounds approach it, you note a collie dog skulking back toward the barn from the creek bottom below on the left. You think an instant, and the conclusion you reach is that your fox was chased by the "Cur-dog" and driven off his line down toward the creek. Waste no time; hounds are scattered all about but come quickly to a couple of sharp twangs from your horn, so you turn sharp left and trot straight down hill toward the little creek which runs at its base. Hounds are all outside of you, heads down sniffing each bit of ground. "Yoyote, yoyote, you," quietly as you go along. You are almost at the creek,- Has he crossed it? No - they begin to feather excitedly, a whimper and then a clear note from "Stimulant", and they're off like a shot up the creek to the left and into the covert again, in just the opposite direction from which the fox

originally started. "That's all right," you say to yourself, "he's only turned down wind." But they are in covert now, and although you can't see them you can tell by the music they are making that the scent is far from bad. Into the covert you go and as you gallop through the ride you can hear them going on well, just screaming at him. As you come out the other side, your first whipper-in who has slipped on ahead, tells you by his attitude that he has viewed the fox. You ride up to him and he says, "About ²⁷the minutes gone sir." Not a word now--hounds are running well and to scream would only put their heads up, so turn your horse's head in the direction the fox has gone and sit still. You have scarce an instant to wait before they come streaming out of the wood, little "Dowager," with the blood of Blevoir Vagabond coursing through her veins still in the van, while close behind is old "Woodcraft", from Mr. Fernie's, and then a lot of your home-bred youngsters among them "Solitude," who did such sterling work on the first day of the cubbing. As they stream past you count them, two, - five, - eight, - ten, and a half, twelve, - thirteen couples, "Half a couple short," you say half to yourself. "Aye, and here she comes sir", adds the ship, as old "Lucky" from the North Warwickshire comes straggling out, starting on with renewed vigor as she reaches the open.

And now with a beautiful open country before you, and the little river running quietly at your right hand, you settle down to ride. For fifteen minutes hounds run top pace and the big rail fences come thick and fast, but you're on your best, "the clipper that stands in the stall at the top," and you sail serenely over everything. Presently the pack swings toward the creek, and then the cry stops suddenly. "Don't speak to them yet, let them try first. They cast themselves ^{for} in vain, and you are just about to make a wide cast when you see "Purity" feathering out on a fallen tree trunk which lies across the river. In a second your mind is made up. "Yoi over, good bitches, yoi over, over, over, over, try over," and at a wave of your arm hounds are in the water in an instant, swimming for the other bank. Climbing out just as "Purity" has reached the turf on her log, they feather a minute and then picking up the

line they are away once more, running as hard as ever.

Luckily there is a ford near by and you get over without losing much time, and are soon on terms with them again. Ten minutes of good going and then a sharp twist by the fox which old "Woodcraft" catches and you are headed back for the creek. Some cattle in a field cause a momentary check, but this time you hold them forward, recovering the line just as it lands into a small covert near the river bank. Hardly have hounds gone in at one end, when out comes Mr. Fox at the other, not fifty yards in front of the leaders. The river is on one side, the field on the other, and with a mile of open country ahead it seems as if the fox's fate was sealed. But there's many a spill twixt the "Find" and the "Kill," and just as you are about to congratulate yourself on such a successful ending to your run, the fox slips under the bank. Unluckily hounds had caught sight of him and with their heads up had galloped on 300 yards before you could stop them, for you and you only saw the fox as he climbed dripping up the opposite bank and made wearily off down the creek.

Now is the time for you to recall a former day when this same fox turned back to his home covert after a similar run. Whistle to your hounds, gallop to the ford, cross the stream a quarter of a mile below the check, and trot straight away from the creek. Keep your eyes open and you may see your fox. Aye there he goes, loping towards a bit of cover a quarter of a mile away. Hounds are already feathering to his falling line but pick them up and gallop for all you're worth to the further side of the little wood. Just as you turn its corner you meet Mr. Fox as he comes sneaking out of it. He catches sight of you at almost the same instant, and turns to go back to covert, but it's too late, you are between him and it. Now is your chance to give hounds a view. A scream from your heart, and an answering one from the pack as their heads go up and they catch sight of their fox, and the final burst begins.

Half a mile you all race on the turf, hounds slowly but surely gaining on their quarry till at last only twenty yards separate them. Then out from the pack shoots old "Dutiful", the bitch you had from the Goggardon, and in an instant she is upon him

and has rolled him over. The pack are all up and by the time you gett off your smoking horse and get to them he's only a tumbled mass of fur. Your whips are up too and shouting "Dead, dead, dead," they get the hounds off and keep them baying frantically at arms length while you perform the final obsequies; and then with a "whoo, whoe-whoop," throw them the remains.

Not every day by any means will such a gallop fall to your lot. There'll be plenty of days when scent will be bad, days when such tactics as you've played to-day will not work, but when you must let your hounds puzzle out the line for themselves and hunt a fox to death, instead of running him down. Your last move, when you lifted your hounds down and over the river, and then finally lifted them again to meet their fox, was a risky proceeding, and yet if you had^{n't} met him coming out of that last covert, if he had lain down inside it, you could always have gone back to it, after you'd found by casting for'd that he'd not gone on.

The principle of fox-hunting is always to "get for'd," and the American principle of allowing hounds to hunt out a line when a huntsman can help them with his brain power seems to me totally wrong. What earthly use is a huntsman else ? But there'll be many days when foxes, having outwitted you and your hounds, will escape with a whole skin in spite of all your efforts.

One of the most important things to remember is that, while it is not absolutely essential that hounds kill frequently. it certainly is a very great advantage not to let them go too long without blood. It is for this reason that I have advocated digging out foxes in the beginning of the year, particularly in order to teach young hounds what they are trying to do. In America frequently happens that hounds go for weeks without breaking up a fox-- and this is conducive no only in their becoming lazy and unwilling to draw, but also to runⁿing riot. They get to feel, I suppose, as if they must kill something and if not a fox, why then anything that comes in their way. Persevere with the line then if at any time during the run your hounds have forced their fox to extend himself. There is no use, however, in letting hounds go pottering on after a stale line

all day; if you want that kind of hunting get a pack of Bassett-hounds.

I now have a few words to say in regard to the actual handling of hounds by the huntsman in the field. Too many huntsmen in this country let their hounds absolutely alone all the time, never assisting them in any way; in fact the main difference between the English and American idea of fox-hunting is that the English huntsman hunts a fox using a pack of hounds as an instrument to do so; whereas the American huntsman follows his hounds and they not he, hunt the fox. My theory is that the American method while it is antiquated, (they used to hunt that way in England one hundred years ago) has certain advantages for this country, but that in order to obtain the best results the English method modified to suit the country should be practiced.

To show you what I mean, let us suppose that your hounds run a fox into a big covert of say several hundred acres in extent, into which you can't follow, and check. Now if you are all the time lifting your hounds and helping them they'll come to look for it always, and when the time comes in a case like that they'll give up in despair. I know of one Master, a man who is as keen about fox-hunting as any in this country, who, although he keeps nothing but pure-blooded English hounds, will not let his huntsman help them in the field at all. I think this is carrying things a bit too far, but I do think that a man hunting hounds in America should have one pretty hard and fast rule. Never speak to hounds till they have made their own cast and failed, and never get their heads up unless you are certain of giving them a view, or of lifting them some distance to the line of the hunted fox. A great gain is worth the risk, a small gain isn't. Keep pushing them on with a line if you feel sure its the right one, but let them think they are doing it themselves.

In casting hounds don't call them after you or have them driven on, make them work ahead of you or abreast of you, on the outside, and make sure your whipper-in doesn't urge them on too fast. If a hound stops to smell at anything leave him alone. He may be right, you can't tell, and he's certainly better fitted to judge than you or your whipper-in.

The question of scent is one which has been discussed by the all the great authorities on hunting -- Beckford, Scrutator, Ratcliffe, Smith and many others each have a different theory and all are well worth reading by anyone who is interested in the matter. One of the most recent contributors to the literature of fox-hunting, Mr. J. Otto Paget, has a good deal to say on the subject and it seems to me that his explanation is the most concise I have ever read. He says, "The two elements which have the greatest effect on scent are atmosphere and soil, but in what way they act for good or evil no one has yet been able to determine. We know that a light, sandy, or very porous soil, is bad for scent but we don't know why. My idea is that these soils are, unless flooded with wet, always absorbing moisture from the air, and that they draw down some scent at the same time. A clay soils absorbs moisture very slowly, except arable land that has no crop in exceptionally dry weather. I should say that the most favorable time for hounds to run is when the atmosphere is in such a state that it is nearly of the same weight as scent, with just a slight leaning to the right side.

When the fox or other animal starts off, his scent is left in a little cloud behind him, which, when it and the air are nearly of the same weight, sink very gradually to the ground. Then if it falls of grazing ground, it will cling for some time to the herbage, whilst that falling on a dry barren surface will quietly disappear skyward, and your only chance of a run is to keep near your fox. On those days which occur once in two or three seasons, when hounds can race over any kind of country and every variety of soil, I believe that air and scent have just happened to be evenly balanced. It is quite easy to understand that the chance cannot occur often, as with such light materials, the slightest difference must turn the scales either way."

Mr. Paget in the above remarks seems to me to have solved the question of scent more completely than any one. It is well known that a storm in the air is prejudicial to scent, i.e. the air is heavier causing the scent to rise; in fact I think that similar conclusions will be reached by all who make a careful study of the question. Manure or any other strong fertilizer, spoiling scenting conditions on the ground upon which it

lies, because its own strong smell mixes with and overpowers the smell of a fox, and the same is true of sheep, cattle or horses; and one of the commonest causes of hounds checking in the intervention of a cur dog. When it is evident that a dog has chased your fox, cast forward immediately beyond the point/where the dog stopped, as you did in the beginning of the run just described. The reason for this is two-fold; in the first place the smell of the dog mingling with that of the fox confuses hounds, and in the second it is a bad thing to allow them to hunt after cur-dogs, as it teaches your young hounds to hunt dog. The same thing is true if one hound gets away ahead of the rest.

There are days when the the most steady and reliable old hounds will run anything even to pheasants and grouse, but you must not be discouraged on these occasions, and remember that because a hound puts his head down and feathers to a line or even runs it a few yards, he must not be set down as a rogue if he doesn't speak to it. He is only trying to find out what sort of a smell it is, and those are days when he cant. determine instantly.

The question of weather too plays a very important part in the scenting conditions of any country. I have seen days when the ground was hard and frozen with a sharp wind blowing, on which one would suppose hounds could not feel a line, and yet on which they ran like wildfire; and again when scenting conditions seemed all that could be desired hounds have been unable to hunt a yard.

To sum the whole matter up, however, all hunting men will, I am sure, agree that no one can foretell with any degree of accuracy what the day will bring forth. Each man has his pet theory, and each men will usually admit that it has been disproved at times. The best way is to find a fox and let your hounds tell you.

CHAPTER XIII

THE DRAG.

"Yonder a steed is rolled up with his master
Here in a double another lies cast
Faster and faster come grief and disaster
All but the good ones are weeded at last.

Onward we struggle in sorrow and labor
Lurching and lobbing, and "bellows to ment;"
Each while he smiles at the plight of his neighbor,
Only is anxious to get to the end."

Whyte-Melville.

CHAPTER XIII

DRAG HUNTING -

It is with a considerable degree of hesitancy that I take up my pen to write this, the last chapter of this book, because I do not consider that drag-hunting should be mentioned in the same breath with the "noble science". At the same time there are in America a good many men -- good sportsmen they are too -- who must attend regularly to their business in the city, and who, while they can spare the time for an afternoon's gallop, could not give up entire days such as would be necessary in fox-hunting. These men come from their offices tired and wanting to be refreshed. They have looked forward all day to the relaxation which a gallop across country on a good horse gives one, and they yearn to have that gallop. For them drag hunting is the only sure means of obtaining it, and this is certainly a good enough reason for keeping up a drag pack.

Then too, there are many countries in America where true fox-hunting cannot be carried on owing to the conformation of the country itself, or the scarcity of foxes, or the prevalence of wire which is the only fencing used in some parts of the West. One can pannel such fences sufficiently for drag purposes, but it would require an enormous outlay to put in enough timber pannels to allow fox-hunting. "Half a loaf is better than no bread at all," and it cannot be said of the devotees of this kind of sport that they have chosen any child's game. It takes a good horse, and a man with a stout heart astride him, to follow hounds running top pace over stiff fencing, such as one gets with the Myopia near Boston, or the Meadowbrook on Long Island.

Still a third reason that may be advanced as a cause for the prevalence of drag packs in some communities, is that it costs far less to support a pack of drag hounds than a pack of fox-hounds. It is not necessary to keep over ten couples of hounds, nor

is it necessary to employ as many, or as highly paid hunt servants. At many of the drag packs only a kemel-man is employed; the huntsman and whippers-in being amateurs. Moreover hounds that are drafted for such faults as skirting and babbling are perfectly suitable for drag purposes, where all that is asked of a hound is that he babble and run.

The best drag pack I ever saw was one which Mr. George S. Handell, Master at Myopia, bred and developed, but which is now unluckily extinct, owing to an epidemic of rabies in 1908. Mr. Handell put as much time and thought into breeding of hounds to run drags, as many a Master of fox-hounds does to produce hounds for the better sport. These hounds were all of them of pure English blood, most of them bred from importations from the kennels of the Cottesmore and the Quorn, and were for the most part big racy dog-hounds of a stamp which took the big stone walls of Essex County where they hunted, in their stride.

In some of the Western packs the experiment has been tried of crossing the English with the American hound with a view to getting more voice, and this has, I am told been quite successful. If a drag is properly laid, however, I think English hounds will make enough music, and they will certainly be easier to handle and better to look at.

There is practically nothing for me to say in regard to their care and management, which had not been said in the previous chapters, with the exception of instructions as to how to lay a drag which may serve to guide a novice at the game. There are two methods of doing this, one the old fashioned way of dragging a bit of meat, on which is a few drops of oil of anise, over the country, and the other of laying the line with "fox-litter." This latter method is by far the best and it is invariably productive of much more music from the pack than when they run on anise seed alone. "Fox-litter" is obtained by keeping two or more foxes in a cage, the floor of which is lined with zinc and so arranged that the urine made by the animals is drained off

into a receptical where it can be taken from time to time. A rag soaked in this is used to lay the line, or lines; there are usually two, from five to seven miles in length, and this is usually done by a mounted man, who goes along an hour or so in advance of the pack picking out the most rideable line across the territory to be covered.

The amount of fluid used on the rag is regulated by the day and the quality of the soil ridden over. Too much is as bad as too little, as if too strong scent gets up hounds noses and they run riot everywhere, and this is especially true if oil of anise is used in place of "fox-litter". It is usually comparatively easy to buy a couple of foxes and the difference in the sport obtained is well worth the trouble. I need not, I think, say that drag hunting ruins a hound for the better sport in a short time.

I had originally intended to omit this chapter,- but after all drag hunting has acquired such a hold here in America among certain communities, that I feel that I should be omitting a sport of considerable importance were I to say nothing on the subject. The only excuse to my mind for a man's going drag-hunting is that he can't go fox-hunting. It may be that there is no pack of fox-hounds within reach of him, or it may be that he has not the time to devote to the better sport. In some Northern portions of this country where fox-hunting has not as yet attained a footing, there are a good many packs, which, starting as drag packs, have later developed into full-fledged fox-hunting establishments, and if it does nothing else drag hunting certainly teaches a boy to ride straight, and to throw his heart over a fence ahead of him stopping at nothing.

CHAPTER XLV.

THE COST OF HUNTING.

It has been suggested to me that a few facts as to the cost of maintaining a pack of hounds would be of interest to those about to take a country, and so I shall try to tell you what I know on the subject, most of which is gleaned from personal experience. Figures look pretty big to the young enthusiast with lots of ambition and a small bank account, and in taking mine into consideration I want you to remember that I am allowing a sufficient sum to do the thing handsomely, and that many of the expenses given can be reduced by economical management; and some of them entirely cut out.

The original outlay will vary greatly according to the quality and quantity of animals you may buy, and the time of year in which you buy them. I have, I think told you the number of hounds you will need to keep, varying according to the number of days a week you intend to hunt. As for horses, you should allow at least four for each man to be mounted if you hunt three days a week, and five if you hunt four days.

Here again the price of horses will vary enormously, and I can only give you such figures as seem to me to be a fair average. Hounds will cost from \$30. to \$75. a couple, and horses from \$300. to \$1,000. each. Taking, then, a mean of the average prices paid, we arrive at the following figures for first cost of your establishment with which to do three days a week:

Thirty-five couples of hounds	@ \$50. per couple	\$1,750.
Cost of importing same	700.
Four horses for self	@ \$750. each	3,000
Eight horses for hunt servants	@ \$350. each	2,800
Ten hunting saddles	@ \$60. each	600.
Ten bridles	130.
Breastplates, wire nippers and other miscellaneous tack.	100.
Clothing	<u>200.</u>
Total Outlay		\$ 9,280

This total figure, which is, I think, as pretty moderate one, can be decreased somewhat if you can pick your horses up at small figures. Tack it pays to get the best of, and I have found that Messrs. Whippy, Stegall & Co., of London, furnished me with the best that can be produced. Badly made saddles wear out and often make a horse's back sore; and nothing is more exasperating than to have a horse standing in his stall eating his head off because he can't go out when, except for his back, he's as fit as a fiddle. Another way expense can be reduced is by buying your hounds in this country and thus saving part of the cost of importation. If you don't hunt your hounds yourself the extra cost of purchasing horses to mount your huntsman will amount to quite a bit.

Now as to running expenses: You will want a studgroom to attend to the stables, and such a man will command a salary of from \$50. to \$70. a month. Besides this man you should have three second horsemen and one helper, whose wages will vary with their efficiency. In my stable each second horseman has his tack and horses to look after, and if he has more than four horses, or the day's hunting is long, he has help. Such men receive from \$25. to \$40. per month. The cost of hay, grain and straw will vary very much each year according as oats and hay are high or low; I think that \$14. per month for horses is a fair average. The men's wages by the way, do not include their board, lodging, and stable

clothes, which are provided for them. Summing these figures up then we arrive at the following average:-

Salary of stud groom	@ \$60. per month	720.
Wages of one second horseman	@ \$35. per month	420.
Wages of two second horsemen	@ \$30. per month	720.
Wages of one helper	@ \$25. per month	300.
Board of five men	@ \$18. per month each	1,080
Shoeing	@ \$25. per month.	300.
Veterinary		50.
Clothing for men		300.
Feed of 12 horses	@ \$168. per month	<u>2,016</u>
		\$ 5,906

For your kennel staff you will need (Provided you hunt your own pack) a kennel huntsman, and it isn't worth while to get a man who is not a good one. He will command a salary of from \$80. to \$100. I consider \$90. a fair wage, and he will expect to receive in addition to this his house, firing, and light. Some other perquisite he usually receives - hides and bones of the horses slaughtered at the kennels, etc., and in some cases the yearly draft. This latter, I should never allow; the temptation of a huntsman who has it must be very great to induce the M.F.H. to draft a good many. The wages of a first whipper-in are usually \$45. of a second \$40. and a kennelman receives the same.

All three men have their board and lodging found, and in addition the two whippers-in receive new hunting clothes each year. The cost of feeding hounds, as in the case of horses, varies with the rise and fall in the market price of oatmeal, but I have found that the average cost of keeping hounds amounts to about \$54. a couple, each year. By adding these figures up then we arrive at the following total:

Salary of Kennel huntsman	@ \$90. per month	\$1,080
Firing and light	@ \$12. per month	144
Wages of first whipper-in	@ \$45. per month	540.
Wages of second whipper-in	@ \$40. per month	480.
Wages of Kennelman	@ \$40. per month	480.
Board of three men	@ \$18. per month each	648.
Clothes for two whippers-in	@ \$100. each	200.
Cost of feeding 35 couples of hounds	@ \$54. a couple	<u>1,890.</u>
Total yearly expense	-	\$ 5,462.

Adding then the totals of the stable and kennel expenses together ----

Stable, \$5,906.

Kennels, 5,462.

\$ 11,368

we arrive at a grand total of \$11,368., which represents the yearly cost of maintaining a three-days a week pack to best advantage.

I think that these figures will be found pretty close, although the totals may be reduced by decreasing the number of hounds kept up. The figure for feeding is pretty handsome, but it will include such odds and ends as medicine, etc. If you keep a huntsman you must add to this the difference in his salary, perhaps \$25. per month, and the cost of keeping up four more horses in your stable -- say a total of \$2,000 a year.

Of course the whole thing may be done on a much more elaborate scale, as it can in a more economical manner, by doing away with your kennel-man, or working one of your whippers-in in the stable; but I think you'll not get such good men or such good servants in the end. In some establishments, too, the huntsman is over everything, stable as well as kennels, and this does away with the wages of a stud groom; but I think it is a poor plan to mix the two departments.

Keep careful accounts and you'll see where the leaks are and perhaps be able to re-

medy them. I find I've allowed nothing for damages, looking after foxes, etc., but your subscription should cover that. It is no more than fair for any man who hunts regularly with a pack to subscribe to such a fund. When you get fairly started, the yearly sale of your draft will bring you in something, although this is hardly more than will pay the expenses of your annual puppy show.

THE END.

